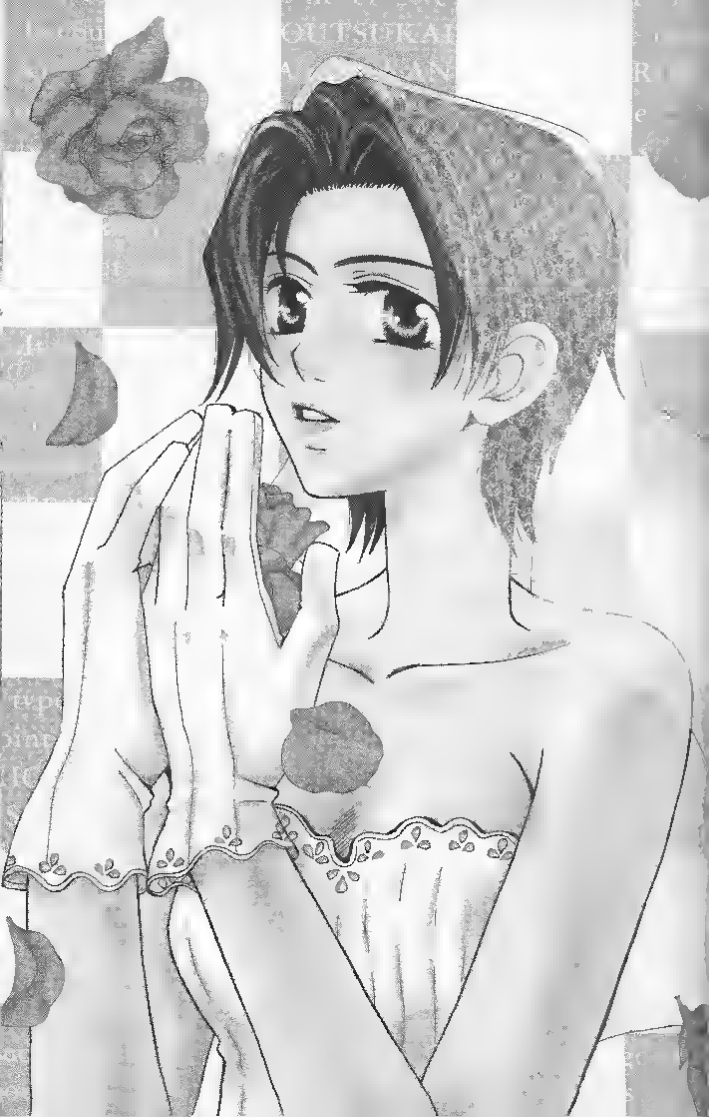
2
TENSHI JA NAI!!
I'm No Angel!
Story & Art by
Takako Shigematsu

MY NEW SCHOOL HAS A BEAUTIFUL WESTERN-STYLE CHAPEL MOST DAYS, IT'S COMPLETELY EMPTY, BUT ON THIS PARTICULAR MORNING...
CHIRP
CHIRP
...I FOUND SOMEONE THERE I HAD NEVER SEEN BEFORE..
...PLAYING THE PIANO BEFORE GOD.

TENSHI JA NAI!!
天使じゃない!!
SCENE 6



AROOOO

S... SUMIKKO !?
He's totally feeling the mus
WHO'S THERE!?
EXCUSE US!

THIS IS ALL FOR THE 2 MILLION YEN
I REALLY NEEDED YOUR HELP THIS MORNING
I HAD NO OTHER CHOICE.
BUT YOU SAID YOU'D ONLY NEED ME ON WEEK-ENDS!
I had to skip class for this...
I HAD AKIZUKI CALL TO THE PRINCIPAL TO MAKE EXCUSES FOR YOU
DON'T WORRY.
I'M HIKARU TAKA-BAYASHI, 16 YEARS OLD.
I HAVE A PART-TIME JOB ON SATURDAYS AND SUNDAYS AT THE AKIZUKI TALENT AGENCY AS IZUMI-SAN'S ASSISTANT.
C'MON LET'S GO TO THE MUSIC ROOM

HERE I AM.
STAGGER
EVEN THOUGH THINGS STARTED OUT BADLY, IN THE END...
...I JUST FEEL LIKE I CAN'T LEAVE HIM TO DEAL WITH THIS ALONE.
CLICK
HELLO!
I'M SORRY FOR BEING LATE TO CLASS BECAUSE OF PERSONAL REASONS
A PIANO...
ACTUALLY IT'S NOT EXACTLY A JOB - MORE LIKE SERVITUDE.
YOU SEE, IZUMI-SAN'S FATHER IS IN THE HOSPITAL WITH ENORMOUS MEDICAL BILLS AND IZUMI-SAN IS WORKING AS AN IDOL TO PAY THEM OFF.
NOW HE HAS COERCED ME INTO HELPING HIM OUT
EVEN THOUGH I WANT NOTHING TO DO WITH CELEBRITIES, I HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO GO WITH THE FLOW
FLOOSH

I HEARD ABOUT YOUR SITUATION. YOU MAY HAVE A SEAT.
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT...
...IT SOUNDS KIND OF LIKE THE GUY FROM THE CHAPEL.
THE GUY FROM THIS MORNING!!
UM... EXCUSE ME.
I'M ALSO--
AH!

SO HE'S A TEACHER.
MY NAME IS HIKARU TAKA-BAYASHI I'M SORRY FOR BEING LATE...
WHY ARE YOU LATE?
CLACK
I'M... SENSEI?
I ALREADY GOT PERMISSION FROM THE PRINCIPAL FOR TAKABAYASHI-SAN TO HELP ME THIS MORNING.
NO ONE TOLD ME THAT.

...BUT IT SEEMS TO ME THAT YOU'RE TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE SITUATION.
DON'T EXPECT SPECIAL TREATMENT FROM ME.
I'M TSUKASA AYASE. I TOOK OVER THIS CLASS AFTER KIYASU-SENSEI WAS TRANSFERRED TO ANOTHER SCHOOL.
BUT...
I KNOW THAT THE ACADEMY HAS GRANTED YOU PERMISSION TO WORK OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL AS AN ENTERTAINER.
WHEN YOU DON'T TAKE YOUR SCHOOLWORK SERIOUSLY, THAT ATTITUDE RUBS OFF ON YOUR CLASSMATES.
UNLIKE SOME TEACHERS IN THIS SCHOOL, I'M NOT ABOUT TO LET YOU DRAG DOWN THE ACADEMIC INTEGRITY OF MY CLASS.
BELIEVE IT OR NOT KIDO-SAN, SOME PEOPLE COME TO SCHOOL TO LEARN.

HE'S QUITE DIFFERENT FROM THE IMPRESSION I HAD OF HIM THIS MORNING
Ha... Wha...?
YOU SAID YOUR NAME IS TAKABAYASHI?
AS PUNISHMENT FOR BEING LATE TO CLASS TODAY, YOU WILL CLEAN THE CHAPEL EVERY MORNING FOR ONE WEEK.
BAM
WHO THE HELL DOES HE THINK HE IS!?

I HEARD THAT YASE-SENSEI IS THE GRAND-SON OF THE SCHOOL'S DIRECTOR.
Yosukuni is sewing silicone into Izumi's bra.
APPARENTLY HE TAKES THIS SCHOOL'S ACADEMIC LEGACY VERY SERIUSLY
WHAT!?
THEN WHY DO YOU?
I just assumed that you liked wearing women's clothing...
WHO THE HELL WOULD VOLUNTEER TO CROSS-DRESS AS A GIRL IDOL AND POSE FOR TEENAGE TWITS FOR FUN!?
Shake Shake
HE MAKES IT SOUND LIKE I ENJOY DOING THIS!
Well, he doesn't really know the part about you cross-dressing...
I'LL SHUT UP NOW.
I'm sorry.
Hmph!
I've summoned something evil!
I'M GOING TO TAKE A SHOWER.
SLAM!
Leave it ajar!

WHEN IZUMI-SAMA WAS A CHILD, HE MODELED AS A GIRL SEVERAL TIMES
HUH?
LATER, WHEN HIS FATHER KAZUTO-SAMA, BECAME VERY ILL, AND IZUMI-SAMA NEEDED MONEY QUICKLY TO PAY OFF THE BILLS...
...HE CONSULTED WITH MR. AKIZUKI, A FAMILY FRIEND WHO WAS THE PRESIDENT OF AN ENTERTAINMENT AGENCY
MR. AKIZUKI TOLD HIM THAT HE HAD NEED OF A FEMALE MODEL FOR A PHOTO SHOOT.
Pure 100%
IZUMI-SAMA AGREED TO THE JOB, ASSUMING IT WOULD BE A ONE TIME THING. NO ONE EXPECTED THAT IZUMI-SAMA WOULD BECOME SO POPULAR.
EVEN THOUGH PEOPLE LOVE HIM, IZUMI-SAMA IS VERY INSECURE ABOUT HIS FEMININE FEATURES.
HE SEEMS TO BE HIDING HIS INSECURITY PRETTY WELL...
MODELING AS A KID...
ALTHOUGH I COULDN'T STAND ALL THE UNWANTED ATTENTION...
THAT SOUNDS LIKE MY STORY.
...AND GAVE IT UP AFTER ONLY TRYING ONCE.

AH!
GOOD MORNING, AYASE-SENSEI
GOOD MORNING.
YOU CAN USE THIS TO CLEAN.
I'LL BE BACK WHEN YOU'RE DONE TO MAKE SURE YOU DO A THOROUGH JOB.
UH OKAY.
HE GOT UP THIS EARLY JUST TO STOP BY AND GREET ME?

— One Hour Later —

GRRUMBLE
SHOOT! I NEED TO HURRY UP AND GET BREAKFAST OR I'LL BE LATE FOR MY FIRST CLASS!
...EVEN IF IT IS SUPPOSED TO BE PUNISHMENT!!
THIS IS EASIER AND MORE REFRESHING THAN HELPING IZUMI-SAN...
HOW DO I SAY THIS...
ALL FINISHED!

.....
TAKABAYASHI-SAN! TAKABAYASHI-SAN!
WHAT IS AYASE-SENSEI LIKE!?
WHAT... I'M NOT SURE WHAT YOU'RE ASKING...
MOMOCHI-SAN...
IS IT TRUE THAT AYASE-SENSEI IS MAKING YOU CLEAN THE CHAPEL EVERY MORNING?

...BUT HE TOLD ME, "IT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS!" AND GAVE ME THIS CHILLY LOOK. I TOTALLY FROZE UP.
I ASKED HIM, "DO YOU HAVE A GIRL-FRIEND?"
HE'S STUDIED ABROAD AND USED TO BE A CONCERT PIANIST.
TSUKASA AYASE, 23 YEARS OLD. HIS GRANDMOTHER IS PART RUSSIAN. AND HE'S A QUARTER RUSSIAN.
Tsukasa, 23 years old. Grandmother is Russian. Studied abroad. Ex-pianist. VERY handsome. Sharp eyes.
THIS IS ALL I COULD FIND OUT ABOUT HIM SO FAR.
Eh heh...
OH, THAT'S RIGHT!
I'M IMPRESSED WITH AYASE-SENSEI.
I CAN'T BELIEVE HE WAS ABLE TO FREEZE UP MOMOCHI, THE QUEEN OF CURIOSITY!
I REALLY CAN'T TAKE MY EYES OFF YOU NOW!
TAKABAYASHI-SAN, YOU'RE HELPING IZUMI-SAMA WITH HER JOB NOW, AREN'T YOU?
It'll be fun!
Ha...
HEH HEH..
I'LL BE BACK TO INTERVIEW YOU AGAIN SOON
SIGH...

hmm
hmm
I SEE YOUR WORK IS AS THOROUGH AS LAST TIME, TAKABAYASHI.
hmm
hmm
hmm
GOOD MORNING.
AH!
G...
GOOD MORNING.
BOW
I HEARD YOUR HUMMING.
HE HE..RD ME? THAT'S SO EMBARRASSING!
Please erase your memory!
YOU KNOW AVE MARIA?

WELL, ACTUALLY
..I HAPPENED TO HEAR YOU PLAYING IT THE OTHER DAY...
...AND IT REMINDED ME OF HOW MY MOM USED TO HUM IT ALL THE TIME.
OH YEAH MY MOM ALSO WENT TO THIS SCHOOL
IS THAT SO?
How awkward...
TAKABA-YASHI.
AT FIRST I THOUGHT YOU WERE ALSO ONE OF KIDO'S SILLY GROUPIES
I GUESS I WAS WRONG
YOU DON'T SEEM LIKE THE TYPE OF PERSON WHO WOULD DO THINGS OUT OF VANITY.
SO WHY DO YOU FOLLOW KIDO?

YOU'RE NOT BEING COERCED INTO HELPING HER, ARE YOU?
HE'S SO OBSERVANT!!
THAT WAS DEFINITELY THE CASE AT FIRST...
BUT...
NO...
THAT'S NOT THE CASE.
Not now, anyway...
HOW CAN I SAY THIS...
TO ME IZUMI-SAN IS LIKE A FRIEND...
Sorta.
...AND BASICALLY
I DECIDED ON MY OWN...
...THAT I WANT TO HELP HER.
I SEE...

SATURDAY
BECAUSE I HAD ERRANDS TO RUN FOR IZUMI-SAN TODAY, I COULDN'T GO TO THE CHAPEL.
WHY AM I FEELING SO DOWN IN THE DUMPS?
That's not why I'm on the toilet, though.
sigh
AND I DON'T FEEL SO GOOD...
That's not why I'm on the toilet, though.
HEY, YOU KNOW THAT GIRL, IZUMI KIDO?
I HEAR THAT HER AGENCY GAVE HER HER OWN STYLIST.
NO WAY! ARE YOU SERIOUS?
ISN'T SHE, LIKE, TOTALLY NEW?
WELL, SHE IS REALLY POPULAR.
GIGGLE
GIGGLE

CAN YOU BELIEVE THAT HIKARU-CHAN GOT TO MODEL?
I FEEL SICK...
SHE'S SO UGLY! HER PARENTS MUST HAVE PAID SOMEONE TO MAKE IT HAPPEN
I THINK I'M GOING TO THROW UP.
AH HA HA HA HA
BOOOOE
huff
huff
YOU KNOW WHAT I HEAR-- APPARENTLY SHE'S BEEN SLEEPING WITH THE PRESIDENT OF HER OWN AGENCY!
I HEARD THAT SHE SLEEPS WITH PRODUCERS TO GET GOOD JOBS.
Tee hee!
I FEEL AS IF ALL THEIR NASTY COMMENTS ...
...ARE SURROUNDING MY BODY LIKE POLLUTED AIR.

Dressing Room 1
IZUMI KIDO
SEE YOU LATER, IZUMI-CHAN.
I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOU AGAIN SOON!
SEE YOU LATER!
SIGH...
LONG DAY.
YOU LOOK EXHAUSTED, HIKARU
YOU SHOULD SIT DOWN AND GET SOME REST.
OH...
I'M FINE.

I'LL BE FINE. IZUMI-SAN IS THE ONE WHO REALLY HAS TO WORK HARD.
HUH? WHERE'S HIKARU?
SHE WENT TO CLEAN THE CHAPEL SINCE SHE COULDN'T GO THIS MORNING.
WHAT?
I TRIED TO CONVINCE HER THAT SHE COULD WAIT UNTIL MORNING, BUT SHE INSISTED.
SHE CAN BE VERY STUBBORN IN A WEIRD WAY.
FINE! I GUESS I'LL GO HELP HER.
.....

SIGH
SQUEEZ
SQUEEZ
GASP!
WHO'S THERE?
AYASE-SENSEI!!
TAKABA-YASHI..?

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE THIS LATE AT NIGHT?
I'M SORRY... I FELT BAD THAT I COULDN'T CLEAN THIS MORNING.
.....

EH?
COME THIS WAY.
DON'T WORRY I'M GOING BACK TO MY DORM SOON.

TRY SINGING ALONG.
CLICK
EH!?
GASP!
YOU KNOW THE LYRICS TO AVE MARIA, RIGHT?
I'M STILL NOT SURE THAT I'M CUT OUT FOR THIS TEACHING BUSINESS
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO TELL STUDENTS WHEN THEY NEED GUIDANCE
THAT'S WHAT A GOOD FRIEND OF MINE USED TO SAY.
BUT... I HEAR THAT MUSIC HAS THE POWER TO HEAL PEOPLE'S MINDS.

I'M NOT REALLY GOOD AT SINGING...
WELL... UM... THAT'S GOOD OF YOU, BUT...
THAT'S EASY FOR YOU TO SAY, BUT I REALLY CAN'T SING!
WHAT SHOULD I DO...?
THIS ISN'T A SONG FOR OTHER PEOPLE TO HEAR.
IT DOESN'T MATTER IF YOU SING WELL OR NOT. I'LL START.

WHA...
HE'S A TERRIBLE SINGER!!
He's worse than Dongeun!
STUNNED
I TOLD YOU, IT DOESN'T MATTER WHETHER YOU'RE GOOD OR NOT!
Irk

BACK THEN...
HOW LONG HAS IT BEEN SINCE I LAST SUNG?
...BEFORE I CHANGED TO WHO I AM TODAY...
THE SOUND OF AYASE-SENSEI'S PLAYING AND MY VOICE...
IT FEELS AS IF I'M BEING BLENDED INTO THE NIGHT AIR.

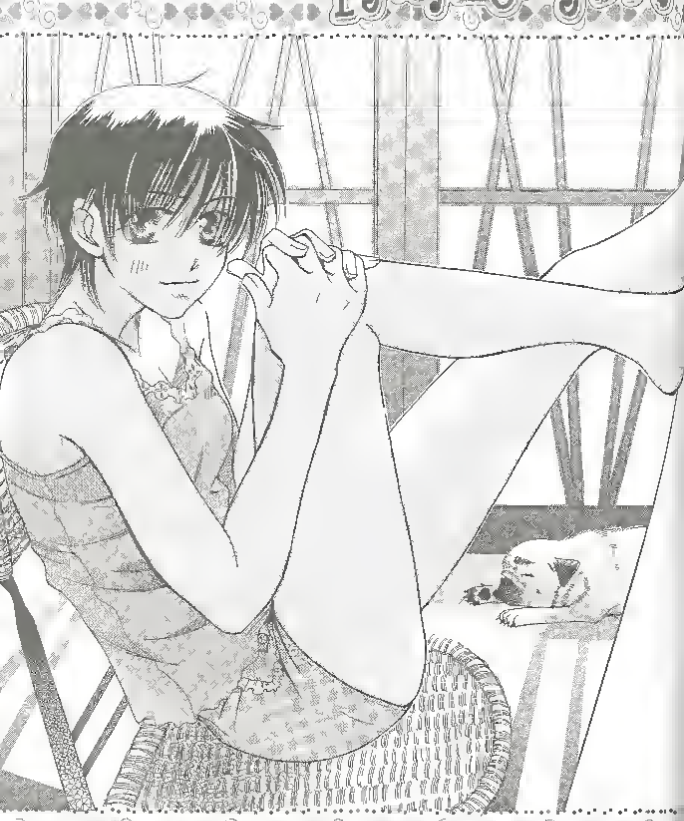
I'M SORRY, LIM...
WHAT IS IT?
SOME-HOW...
...I'VE TOTALLY LOST MY BEARINGS.

I FEEL AS IF I JUST WANT TO RUN AWAY FROM EVERYTHING.
I DON'T LIKE TO STAND OUT...
...BUT THERE ARE PEOPLE I WANT TO HELP OUT.
...AND BY DOING SO I END UP IN THE SPOTLIGHT.
...BUT I CAN'T STAND MYSELF FOR THINKING LIKE THAT.
I THINK...
...IT'S OKAY TO FEEL THAT WAY.
EH..?

WE'RE NEITHER GODS NOR SAINTS
IF SOMETHING IS HARD, IT'S OKAY TO SAY SO
Badum
YOU STILL HELP THEM OUT ANYWAY, DON'T YOU?
EVEN IF IT'S PAINFUL, YOU'RE DOING WHAT YOU THINK IS RIGHT
I'M TELLING YOU THINGS THAT AREN'T HELPING YOU SOLVE YOUR PROBLEMS
UM. NO...
I'M SORRY. AS I SAID, I'M NOT A VERY GOOD TEACHER.

IF YOU'RE DEPRESSED, YOU CAN ALWAYS COME HERE
I WON'T SING AGAIN BUT I WILL PLAY THE PIANO FOR YOU.
AH... UM... AYASE-SENSEI!!
THANK YOU VERY MUCH
AWEM
IT'S PAST YOUR BEDTIME.
YOU SHOULD HURRY BACK TO YOUR DORMITORY AND GET SOME REST.

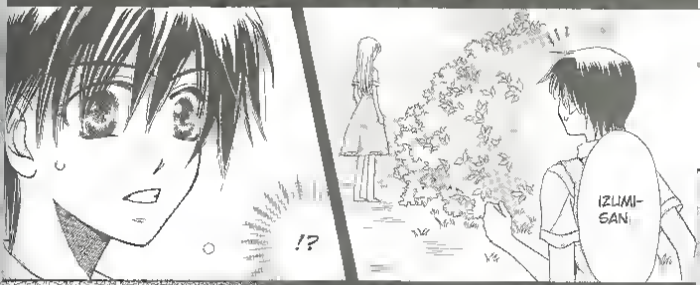
I WONDER WHY...
badum
...I FEEL SO WARM...
badum
badum
COULD IT BE BECAUSE I SANG..?
BLUSH
End of Scene 6



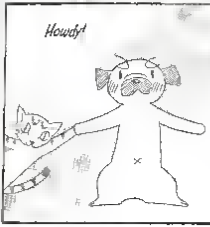
天使じゃない!!

SCENE7

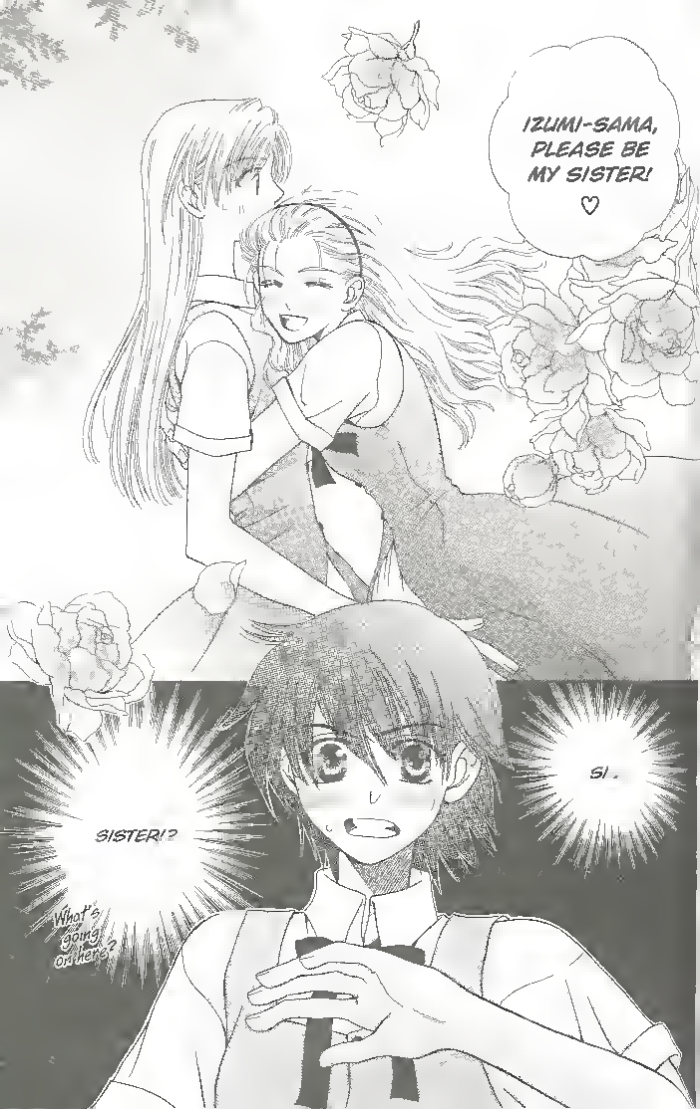
UNTIL YASUKUNI-SAN ASKED ME TO GO LOOK FOR IZUMI-SAN IN THE BACKYARD...



...I NEVER REALIZED JUST HOW INSANE THINGS COULD GET WHEN YOU LIVE WITH A CELEBRITY.



Hajimemashite! Long time no see!
Vol 2 is out at last! I'm so happy that I get to see you again. This success is thanks to your ongoing support!! I hope that you will continue to support me!!
(BOW)
I just fell on my knees to beg you!


IZUMI-SAMA, PLEASE BE MY SISTER! ♡
SI.
SISTER!?
What's going on here?

URK!
YOU CAN CALL ME SHIORI, OKAY?
AH...
GASP!
IZUMI-SAMA!?
I'M FLATTERED THAT YOU THINK SO HIGHLY OF ME, SEMPAI...
BUT I'M AFRAID I MUST DECLINE
I'M SORRY...
...BUT I HAVE TO GO TO WORK NOW, SO IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME...

Izumi-sama
Get me outta here!
Sneak
Sneak
I'll be going now...
HEY YOU!
YOU MUST BE HIKARU TAKABAYASHI, THE FIRST YEAR WHO IS SELFISHLY KEEPING IZUMI-SAMA ALL TO HERSELF!
CLICK
UH-OH!
STAGGER
AT LEAST SHE ESCAPED.

I SEE HOW IT IS! YOU CAME HERE TO KEEP US APART...
EVEN THOUGH I'M A MUCH MORE SUITABLE BEST FRIEND FOR IZUMI-SAMA!
POINT!
EH!?
TWITCH
TWITCH
WHA!?
HIKARU TAKABA-YASHI!!
I, SHIORI UKYO, CHALLENGE YOU TO A DUEL FOR THE HAND OF FAIR IZUMI-SAMA!

A DUEL!?
1st
2nd
WHY ME!?
ALTHOUGH I'M NOT QUITE SURE HOW I GOT STUCK IN THIS SITUATION.
Y YES, AYASE-SENSEI
Faculty Office
DO YOU KNOW WHY I ASKED YOU TO COME HERE, TAKA-BAYASHI?

THERE'S THIS SILLY RUMOR GOING AROUND...
...THAT YOU'RE PLANNING TO FIGHT ONE OF THE THIRD YEARS.
I'M SURE IT'S NONSENSE, BUT JUST IN CASE...
...YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT ANY CONDUCT THAT GOES AGAINST THIS SCHOOL'S STERLING MORAL CODE WILL BE SEVERELY PUNISHED.
YOU MAY GO NOW.
UKYO'S TEACHER HAS SPOKEN TO HER AS WELL.
MAKE SURE YOU KEEP THIS WARNING IN MIND.
O-OKAY.

TREMBLE
I'LL BE ON MY WAY, THEN...
CLICK
NOW THAT MY PUNISHMENT OF CLEANING THE CHAPEL IS OVER, I RARELY GET A CHANCE TO SPEAK WITH AYASE-SENSEI
WHEN I THINK BACK TO THAT NIGHT
...IT ALL FEELS LIKE A DREAM.

DAH!
TAKABA-YASHI-SAAAN!!!
STOMP
STOMP
HUH?
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
M-MOMOCHI!?
You're breathing awfully hard...
BIG NEWS!
NO NEWS!
GIVE ME ALL THE JUICY DETAILS ON YOUR BIG FIGHT!
BEFORE IZUMI-SAMA CAME TO OUR SCHOOL, THE MEMBERS OF THE MOON CLUB WERE THE ONES MOST LOOKED UP TO! EVERYONE WANTED TO JOIN.
SHE'S A MEMBER OF SEIKA ACADEMY'S PRESTIGIOUS MOON CLUB, A SOCIETY THAT ONLY THE BRIGHTEST AND MOST BEAUTIFUL CAN JOIN.
AND NOT JUST ANY STUDENT-- UKYO-SEMPAI!!
EVERYONE SAYS YOU'RE FIGHTING ONE OF THE THIRD YEAR STUDENTS.
Of course, that's still the case for most people.
UM...BY THE WAY... I DON'T PLAN ON FIGHTING ANYONE.
M MOON CLUB?

SERIOUSLY, PLEASE LEAVE ME ALONE!!
And Akyo-sama is...
SHE CALLED ME "SISTER." CAN YOU BELIEVE THAT!?
EVEN IF I COULD BE MYSELF IN THIS PLACE, I'D NEVER WANT TO DATE A GIRL LIKE THAT!
IZUMI-SAMA...
...PLEASE KEEP IT DOWN, HIKARU-SAN IS SLEEPING.
REALLY? SO SOON?

Really?
EVEN THOUGH HER PUNISHMENT IS ALREADY OVER?
APPARENTLY SHE STILL CLEANS THE CHAPEL EVERY MORNING
Urgh...
Sigh
DO YOU THINK SHE'S IN TROUBLE AGAIN?
I THINK OUR LITTLE HIKARU...
...HAS A CRUSH ON THAT NEW MUSIC TEACHER, AYASE OR WHATEVER
ALTHOUGH I'M NOT SURE IF SHE EVEN REALIZES IT YET
ARE YOU OKAY WITH THAT?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
AS LONG AS IT DOESN'T INTERFERE WITH MY JOB, IT'S NONE OF MY BUSINESS, RIGHT?
IS HIKARU TAKABAYASHI HERE?

SHE'S BEEN LOOKING FOR TAKABAYASHI-SAN SINCE THIS MORNING.
CHATTER
CHATTER
CHATTER
WOW LIKYO-SAMA IS HERE AGAIN
.....
SHE IS MUCH MORE SUITABLE TO BE NEXT TO IZUMI-SAMA THAN TAKABAYASHI-SAN
LIKYO-SAMA IS SO BEAUTIFUL! SHE'S LIKE A FRENCH DOLL.
WITH HER ON THE PROWL, I CAN'T EVEN RISK GOING TO THE CAFETERIA FOR LUNCH!
GRUMBLE
I HAVE NO DESIRE TO FIGHT HER.
I WONDER WHEN SHE'LL GIVE THIS UP?
chatter
chatter
Uh
Uh

WOW
WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN US FOR LUNCH ON THE YARD?
WE BROUGHT A PICNIC BASKET!
THERE YOU ARE HIKARU-SAN!
ぐぅ
IZUMI-SAN WORST. TIMING EVER.
?
HUH?
OOPS!
Ugh...
CHATTER
THERE YOU ARE, HIKARU TAKABAYASHI!!

SO YOU'RE AFRAID OF ME!? YOU ADMIT YOU'RE A COWARD!?
UM... UKYO-SEMPAI... AS I SAID BEFORE I HAVE NO DESIRE TO FIGHT YOU.
I WON'T LET YOU GET AWAY THIS TIME!
Good grief...
How I'm really standing out
IF YOU AREN'T EVEN ABLE TO DEFEND YOUR OWN HONOR, WHAT MAKES YOU THINK YOU DESERVE TO STAND NEXT TO IZUMI-SAMA!?
WE'VE GOT UNFINISHED BUSINESS, AND I'M NOT ABOUT TO BACK DOWN!
Sigh...
?
I'M SURE IT'S JUST PITY.
HOW SILLY OF ME TO EVEN THINK THAT IZUMI-SAMA WOULD WANT TO HANG OUT WITH SOMEONE LIKE YOU.
Tee hee!

WOULD YOU KINDLY PLEASE KEEP YOUR RUDE REMARKS TO YOURSELF!?
I CAN DECIDE ON MY OWN
WHO I SURROUND MYSELF WITH, THANK YOU VERY MUCH!
IZUMI-SAN..
OH, CRAP!!
CASH
Was I too far!?

DON'T LOOK AT ME!
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?
I WILL NEVER FORGIVE YOU FOR THIS, HIKARU TAKABAYASHI!!
CHATTER
CHATTER
KIDO-KUN, ARE YOU THE SOURCE OF THIS MESS?

AS I SUSPECTED, A STUDENT WHO WORKS IN THE ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY IS NOTHING BUT TROUBLE FOR THIS SCHOOL
FIGHTING, FAN CLUBS... WE DON'T NEED THIS NONSENSE
"DEAL WITH YOU," HUH?
IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME, INUKAI. THOSE ARE HARSH WORDS FOR AN OLD FRIEND.
PLEASE STOP ATTACKING IZUMI-SAN SO UNREASONABLY
IF YOU'RE PLANNING ON INSULTING IZUMI-SAMA ON MY WATCH, BE PREPARED TO DEAL WITH ME
THEY KNEW EACH OTHER!?
THAT'S TRUE.
JUST BECASUE WE BOTH WENT TO THE SAME JUNIOR HIGH DOESN'T MEAN WE'RE FRIENDS.

Get your hands off my shirt!
IT'S TIME FOR US TO FIGHT, HIKARU TAKABAYASHI!!
WHY IS THIS HAPPENING!?

ALL RIGHT, YOU'RE ON!
OKAY, UKYO-SEMPAI.
AFTER SCHOOL TOMORROW LET'S PUT AN END TO THIS MESS!
OH MY GOSH, I SAID IT!!

EH?
BY THE WAY, HOW ARE WE GOING TO SETTLE THIS?
FINE
She didn't think that far ahead
Hm...
DO YOU THINK I'M STUPID?
HOW ABOUT WE PLAY CARDS?
THANK YOU...
ANY IDEA OF YOURS IS A GOOD IDEA. WE'LL DO IT!
I... IZUMI-SAN...
YOU DIDN'T THINK I KNEW YOUR SECRET, DID YOU?
HOW ABOUT A 100 METER RACE?
IT'S HEALTHY AND SIMPLE, RIGHT?

W...WELL... I CAN ACTUALLY RUN PRETTY FAST WHEN I GIVE IT MY BEST EFFORT...
BUT...
THE FACT THAT YOU DON'T SHOW YOUR TRUE athletic SKILLS IN P.E. BECAUSE YOU DON'T WANT TO STAND OUT.
GASP!
YOU'RE ACTUALLY A MUCH FASTER RUNNER, AREN'T YOU?
TAKABAYASHI I'M VERY DISAPPOINTED IN YOU.
I THOUGHT YOU OF ALL PEOPLE WERE ABOVE THIS NONSENSE

SENSEI...
EVEN IF IT SEEMS SILLY TO YOU, SENSEI!
IZUMI-SAN...
...HIKARU-SAN ONLY VOLUNTEERED SO THAT SHE CAN BRING AN *END* TO THIS MESS
DO AS YOU WISH.

AH...
...

I WONDER... IF SENSEI HATES ME NOW?
SURE... IT WOULDN'T BE THE FIRST TIME SOMEONE'S HATED ME.
SOMETIMES I KNEW WHY A PERSON HATED ME, AND OTHER TIMES IT SEEMED TO BE FOR NO REASON AT ALL.
EITHER WAY, I TRIED NOT TO TAKE IT TOO PERSONALLY.
SO I WONDER WHY IT HURTS SO BAD...
...TO THINK THAT AYASE-SENSEI NO LONGER LIKES ME?
COULD IT BE--,
...I HAVE FEELINGS FOR--
SQUEEZE

WHAT'S WRONG? SO NERVOUS THINKING ABOUT TOMORROW THAT YOU CAN'T SLEEP?
AH!
I, I'M SORRY. DID I WAKE YOU?
NOT REALLY.
SPEAKING OF TOMORROW ...
IF UKYO WINS, I'LL NEVER FORGIVE YOU.
AIEEE!
I DON'T THINK I COULD STAND HAVING THAT PREPPIE HANGING AROUND AND CALLING ME "SISTER" ALL THE TIME.
BESIDES, IT WOULD BE ANNOYING NOT HAVING YOU AROUND TO HELP WITH MY JOB.

I WONDER WHAT IZUMI-SAN WILL THINK..?
AHH...
WELL...
SO IF YOU'RE NOT CONCERNED ABOUT THE BATTLE TOMORROW, HOW COME YOU CAN'T FALL ASLEEP?
I....
I THINK I MIGHT HAVE FEELINGS FOR AYASE-SENSEI.

I SEE...
I WAS WORRIED THAT IZUMI-SAN WOULD LAUGH AT ME...
...BUT THAT'S ALL HE HAD TO SAY ABOUT IT.
...I WAS ABLE TO FALL ASLEEP MUCH EASIER.
AFTER THAT...

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN! ACTUALLY, JUST LADIES! THE DAY OF THE BATTLE THAT EVERYONE'S BEEN WAITING FOR HAS FINALLY COME!
POM
POM
Good luck!
Go, Shiori-sama!
FIRST YEAR HIKARU TAKABAYASHI AND THIRD YEAR SHIORI UKYO
WILL COMPETE IN A 100 METER RACE FOR THE PRIVILEGE OF BEING IZUMI-SAMA'S BEST FRIEND!

I WAS ON THE TRACK TEAM IN JUNIOR HIGH.
Tee hee!
JUST TO BE FAIR, I SHOULD LET YOU KNOW IN ADVANCE--
MY NAME IS MOMOCHI, PRESIDENT OF THE AUDIO-VIDEO CLUB, AND I'LL BE YOUR ANNOUNCER TODAY!
本部
HOW DOES TELLING ME THAT NOW MAKE IT FAIR!?
ZONK
HO HO HO HO
I'LL KILL YOU IF SHE WINS
EEEP!!
RUNNERS, ON YOUR MARK!
GET SET!
BANG!

Yip!
AH!
HUH?
THUD
GO!
YAHH
Hey! It's my master!
WHY IS SUMIKKO HERE?
11
20-20 eyesight
NO WAY!
SU... SUMIKKO!!
Yip!
Yip!
Arooo?
THAT'S MY HALF-NAKED PHOTO!!

WHAT!?
NO OH
I CAN'T LET ANYONE SEE THAT PHOTO!
AND THE WINNER IS HIKARU TAKABAYASHI !!!

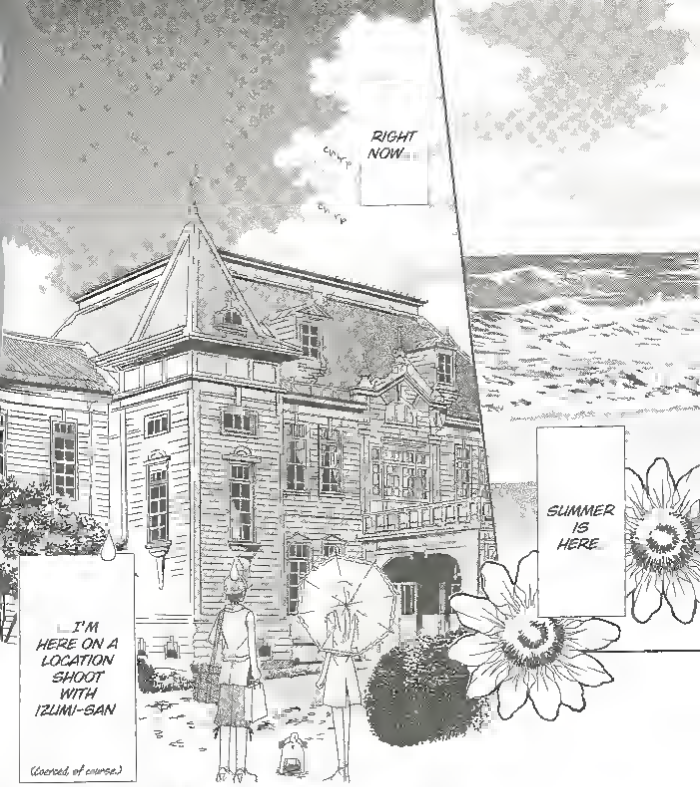
I WONDER WHERE SUMIKKO WENT...?
huff
huff
pant
EH!?
BUT A PROMISE IS A PROMISE. I WILL SWEAR THAT I'LL NEVER TRY TO GET CLOSE TO IZUMI-SAMA AGAIN.
huff
huff
huff
I CAN'T BELIEVE I LOST...
SO... UH...
PLEASE CONTINUE TO SUPPORT HER IN THE FUTURE.
OH, YOU DON'T NEED TO WORRY ABOUT THAT.
UMM... BESIDES, I THINK IZUMI-SAN IS FLATTERED THAT YOU LIKE HER.
What a splendid road.
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
"Ah, that's perfect."
I COMPLETELY LOST IN THIS BATTLE!

NAOOOO!!
PLEASE DON'T LOOK!
PANT
PANT
PANT
BE A GOOD GIRL GIVE IT BACK TO ME
I'm not playing keep away!
SNIFF
SNIFF
S... SUMIKKO...
GASP!
TAKABA-YASHI
AYASE-SENSEI!?
SNIFF SNIFF
WHAT'S THIS DOG DOING HERE?
A PHOTO...?
AR'OO?

GRIN
Back of the photo
HERE, HIKARU-SAN.
YOUR IMPORTANT ITEM
Yoink
Hey!
OH, SUMIKKO! SUCH A TROUBLE-MAKER!
She sure is
PUCHI!
Rats!
KIDO?
IF YOUR EXTRA-CURRICULAR LIFESTYLE CAUSES ANY MORE INCIDENTS THAT JEPORDIZE THIS SCHOOL'S GOOD STANDING, I WILL BE FORCED TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT
YES?
THANKS! I'LL KEEP THAT IN MIND

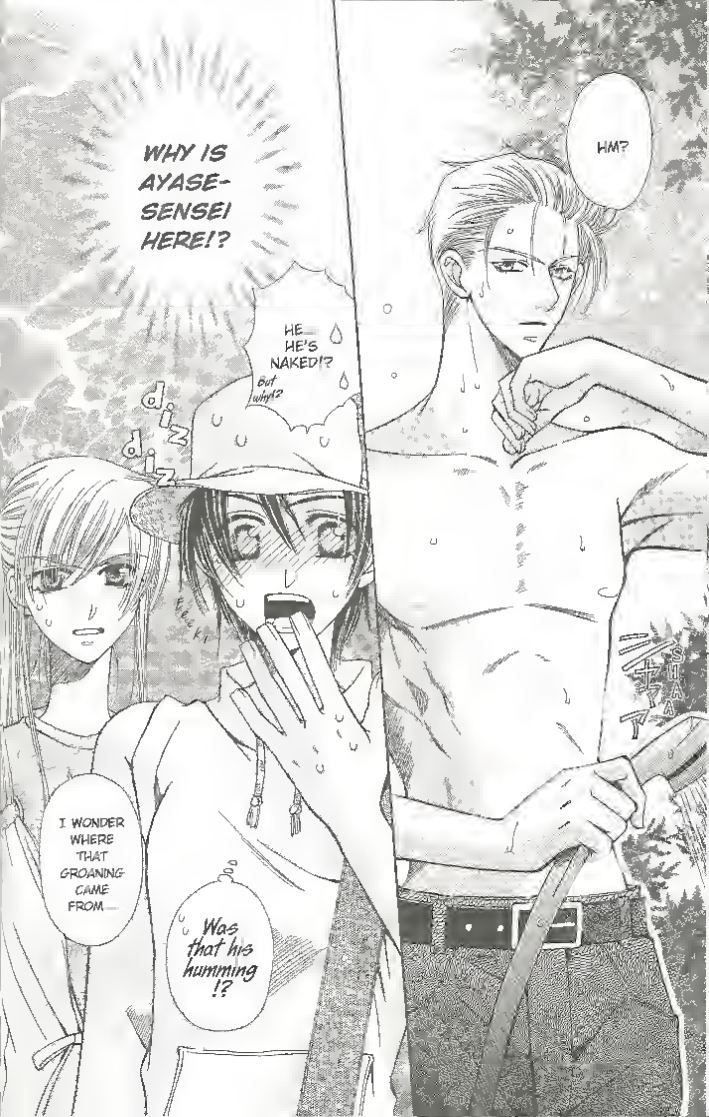
End of Scene 7

SCENE 8



Tsukasa Ayase (23 years old)
Birthday: February 14th
Blood type A
Deans List-type. He has both intelligence and good looks but he secretly has the soul of Giant from Doraemon. He appears to have shared a stormy past with Yasukuni.
(Although the author isn't even sure if she'll get around to revealing that stormy past.)

APPARENTLY THE HEADMISTRESS OF SEIKA ACADEMY KNOWS THE DIRECTOR...
...AND DECIDED TO LET HIM USE IT AS THE LOCATION FOR THE SHOOT.
THAT HOUSE IS ENORMOUS!
HEY, HIKARU, DO YOU HEAR THAT?
I HOPE I CAN HAVE SOME PEACE AND QUIET ON THIS VACATION!..
WHY DID I HAVE TO COME TO THIS SHOOT, ANYWAY?
BECAUSE YASUKUNI'S JANITORIAL DUTIES ARE KEEPING HIM AT SCHOOL DURING THE BREAK.
You're my temporary manager
SOB SOB
A GROAN?
PERHAPS SOMEONE'S HAVING A HEAT STROKE...?
USAGI


WHY IS AYASE-SENSEI HERE!?
HE... HE'S NAKED!?
But why!?
d.i.z
d.i.z
HM?
I WONDER WHERE THAT GROANING CAME FROM...
Was that his humming !?

AH... UM... SENSEI...?
MEMBERS OF THE VIDEO CREW ARE SLEEPING IN THE EAST WING.
YOU MAY USE ANY OF THE ROOMS ON THIS FLOOR
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
MUST BE BECAUSE HE'S RELATED TO THE HEADMISTRESS
I'M HERE TO SUPERVISE YOU TWO
IT MAY BE SUMMER BREAK BUT YOU'RE STILL A STUDENT OF SEIKA ACADEMY WE CAN'T HAVE OUR MOST VISIBLE STUDENT GETTING INTO TROUBLE
I'M SURE YOU UNDERSTAND, KIDO.

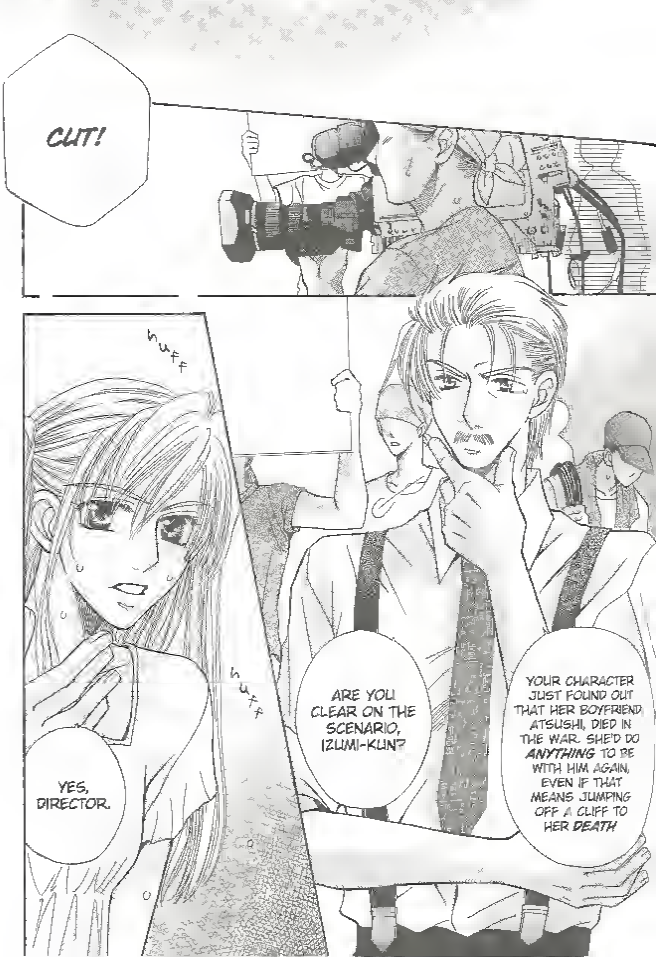
I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY YOU INSIST ON GIVING IZUMI KIDO SPECIAL TREATMENT.
BECAUSE OF HER, THE SCHOOL'S RICH ACADEMIC TRADITION IS IN JEOPARDY!
DON'T BE SILLY I DON'T TREAT HER DIFFERENTLY.
I DISAGREE HEAD-MISTRESS
GRANDMA! I AM NOT BEING STUBBORN!
Even though you're so much younger
I KNOW YOU MEAN WELL, BUT YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S BEING STUBBORN, DEARIE.
WHY DON'T YOU HEAD OVER THERE AND WATCH KIDO-SAN AT WORK?
HE'S DIRECTING KIDO-SAN'S NEXT PROJECT AND I LET HIM RENT OUR FAMILY'S BEACH HOUSE FOR THE SHOOT
I HAVE AN IDEA! YOU REMEMBER MY FRIEND NANJO-SAN, DON'T YOU?

WOW!
AND I THOUGHT MY ROOM WAS NICE YOUR ROOM IS GORGEOUS!
IT'S SO-SO
BY THE WAY, WHAT IS THIS SHOOT FOR?
IZUMI KIDO...

I SEE.
YORIMASA NANJO... HE'S THAT FILM DIRECTOR, RIGHT?
THE ONE I'M IN IS A HORROR STORY DIRECTED BY YORIMASA NANJO
IT'S FOR A TV SPECIAL. THEY'RE DOING AN ANTHOLOGY WHERE SEVERAL WELL-KNOWN TV DIRECTORS EACH CREATE AN EPISODE.

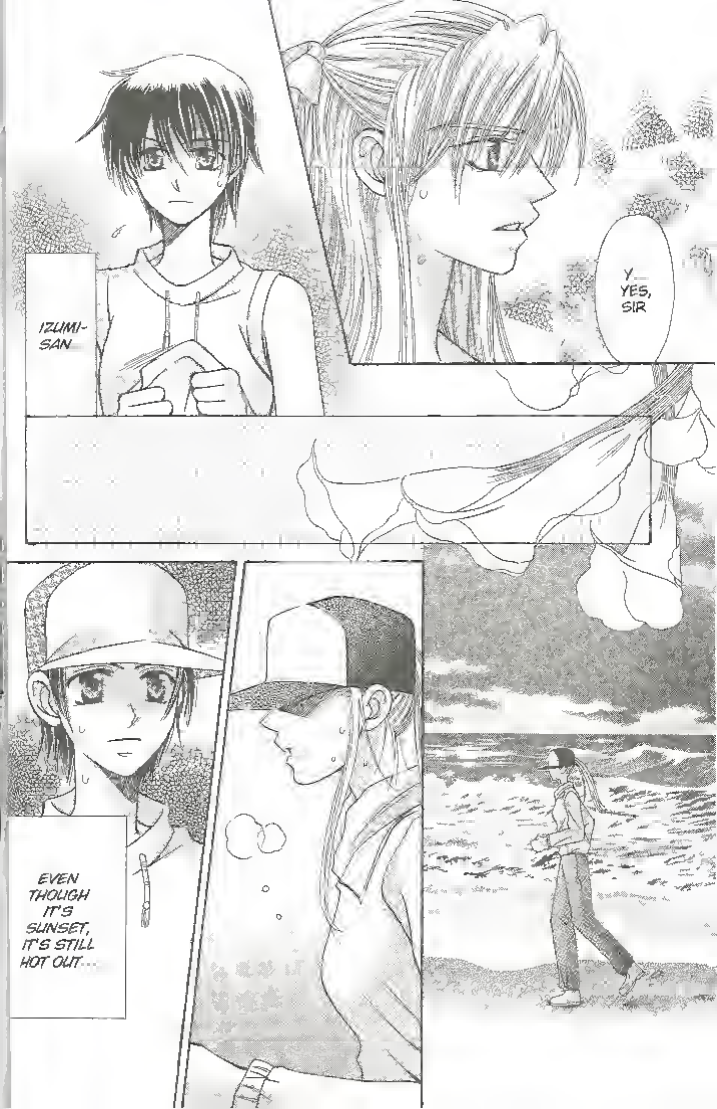
ドドドドド
THE GHOST.
WHAT'S YOUR ROLE?

IZUMI-SAN IS GOING TO BE IN THE TV PROGRAM SHOT BY A FAMOUS FILM DIRECTOR.
I'M IMPRESSED!
IT'S NOT REALLY THE KIND OF ROLE I'M INTERESTED IN, THOUGH
IN THE FIRST SCENE WE SHOOT, MY CHARACTER, REIKO COMMITS SUICIDE AFTER HER BOYFRIEND DIES PRETTY WEAK, IF YOU ASK ME.
THAT WAS CREEPY


CUT!
SNIFF
SNIFF
YES, DIRECTOR.
ARE YOU CLEAR ON THE SCENARIO, IZUMI-KUN?
YOUR CHARACTER JUST FOUND OUT THAT HER BOYFRIEND, ATSUSHI, DIED IN THE WAR. SHE'D DO ANYTHING TO BE WITH HIM AGAIN, EVEN IF THAT MEANS JUMPING OFF A CLIFF TO HER DEATH

I WONDER IF IZUMI-SAN ISN'T FEELING WELL...?
SHE'S SHOOTING THE SAME SCENE FOR THE SIXTH TIME
AYASE-SENSEI
SENSEI HAS BEEN STARING AT IZUMI-SAN ALL DAY.

EH!?
GASP!
CUT! THIS IS A WASTE OF TIME.
B-BUT DIRECTOR --!
IZUMI-KUN
WE MIGHT AS WELL CALL IT A DAY
YOU'RE JUST NOT GETTING IT
GO TO THE BEACH AND JOG FOCUS ON REIKO'S MOTIVATION WHEN YOU GET BACK, YOU'D BETTER BE IN CHAR-ACTER
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT...
...WHENEVER AYASE-SENSEI HAS APPROACHED ME...
...IT'S ALWAYS BEEN AT TIMES WHEN IZUMI-SAN WAS INVOLVED.

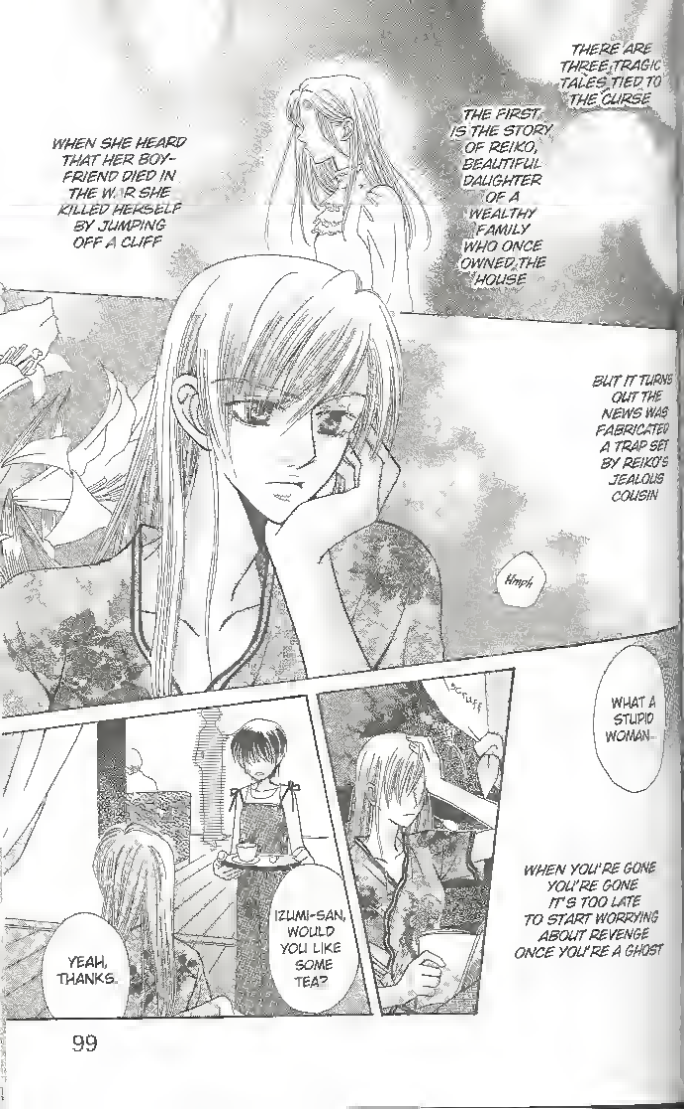

IZUMI-SAN
Y-YES, SIR
EVEN THOUGH IT'S SUNSET, IT'S STILL HOT OUT...

dizzy...
IZUMI-SAN!
...AND HE'S BEEN RUNNING FOR OVER AN HOUR ALREADY
pant
pant
MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS, HIKARU
IZUMI-SAN, PLEASE STOP! YOU'RE GOING TO MAKE YOURSELF SICK
NO!
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO ASKED ME TO ACT AS YOUR MANAGER, REMEMBER!? YOU HAVE TO LISTEN TO ME!

NO MATTER HOW MUCH I TRY...
I CAN'T RELATE TO PEOPLE WHO WOULD TAKE THEIR OWN LIVES...
I DON'T GET IT
HERE, PUT YOUR ARM AROUND ME
IZUMI-SAN
THOSE SELFISH PEOPLE WHO DON'T EVEN CARE ABOUT THE FEELINGS OF THOSE THEY LEAVE BEHIND
!
!?
NOW IT MAKES SENSE. IZUMI-SAN'S FATHER ALSO TRIED TO COMMIT SUICIDE.

UM...
IZUMI-SAN IS DONE FOR THE DAY.
BLINK
YOU'RE RIGHT. LET'S WRAP UP FOR THE DAY.
OH NO!
I DIDN'T EXPECT HIM TO AGREE SO EASILY
IZUMI-KUN...
UNTIL YOU UNDERSTAND REIKO WE WON'T BE ABLE TO MOVE ON GET ME?

Grit...
THE STORY IS SET...
IN AN OLD WESTERN-STYLE HOUSE WHERE THE CHARACTERS CAME TO STAY FOR THE SUMMER...
11
12
Kuyashi
Dear
AND THE LANDLORD TELLS HIS GUESTS THAT THE HOUSE IS CURSED.
HEY, TEACH! HOW ABOUT YOU? WOULD YOU LIKE TO GET A DRINK WITH US TONIGHT?
NO THANKS
?


THERE ARE THREE TRAGIC TALES TIED TO THE CURSE
THE FIRST IS THE STORY OF REIKO, BEAUTIFUL DAUGHTER OF A WEALTHY FAMILY WHO ONCE OWNED THE HOUSE
WHEN SHE HEARD THAT HER BOY-FRIEND DIED IN THE WAR SHE KILLED HERSELF BY JUMPING OFF A CLIFF
BUT IT TURNS OUT THE NEWS WAS FABRICATED A TRAP SET BY REIKO'S JEALOUS COUSIN
Hmph
WHAT A STUPID WOMAN...
WHEN YOU'RE GONE YOU'RE GONE IT'S TOO LATE TO START WORRYING ABOUT REVENGE ONCE YOU'RE A GHOST
IZUMI-SAN, WOULD YOU LIKE SOME TEA?
YEAH, THANKS.

I WISH I COULD HELP
IZUMI-SAN SEEMS FRUS-TRATED...
HEY, IZUMI-CHAN, NICE WORK
OH, THANKS, YOU GUYS DID GOOD WORK, TOO.
THAT WAS A TOUGH DAY
TODAY WAS EXHAUSTING
TALK ABOUT A DIFFICULT DIRECTOR!
MAYBE IT'S JUST BECAUSE HE'S NEVER DIRECTED FOR TV BEFORE, BUT THAT NANJO GUY IS SO ARROGANT AND DEMANDING!
WE HAD IT TOUGH, BUT NOT HALF AS TOUGH AS YOU, IZUMI-CHAN
AIN'T THAT THE TRUTH

EH!?
I HEAR HE LIKES TO TEAR APART UP-AND COMING ACTRESSES ONE POOR GIRL HAD A MENTAL BREAKDOWN... MAYBE IT'S 'CAUSE HIS OWN DAUGHTER IS ALSO AN ACTRESS...
THAT'S JUST A RUMOR
IZUMI-SAN, WHAT THEY WERE JUST TALKING ABOUT
UH, SURE...
WELL, TAKE IT EASY
BUT WHAT IF THEY WERE TELLING US THE TRUTH?
HE'S TOO SMART TO RUIN HIS OWN CAREER BY DESTROYING ACTRESSES

HOW CAN YOU TAKE THAT NONSENSE SERIOUSLY?
AH...
DIDN'T YOU GIVE UP MODELING BECAUSE YOU GOT TIRED OF GOSSIP LIKE THAT?
CLACK
I... I'M SORRY.
LET'S GO.
THIS GUY NANJO. HE MAY BE DIFFICULT TO WORK WITH...
...BUT HE'S A REALLY TALENTED DIRECTOR.
HIS FILMS ARE PROOF OF THAT.
I'M GOING TO NAIL THIS PART. I'LL SHOW HIM THAT I'VE GOT TALENT, TOO.

IZUMI-SAN...?
HOW CAN YOU ALWAYS BE SO FULL OF ENERGY, SUMIKKO?
?

IS THAT THE DIRECTOR?
HE LOOKS SO SERIOUS STARING AT THE OCEAN LIKE THAT...
HE MUST BE VISUALIZING TODAY'S SHOOT HE'S SUCH AN ARTIST.
HUH?
HE'S A PERVERT!
Dirty old man
HM? AREN'T YOU HIKARU TAKABAYASHI, IZUMI-KUN'S ASSISTANT?
UM... YE H... GOOD MORNING.
I WONDER HOW HE KNOWS MY FULL NAME...?
WHERE'S YOUR SWIM-SUIT?
...Pervert...
mad
A PRETTY GIRL LIKE YOU COULD BE TURNING HEADS AT THE BEACH.
WHAT A WASTE, YOUNG LADY.

EVEN IF I WERE TO DRESS UP IN A SWIMSUIT, NOBODY WOULD PAY ATTENTION.
I WISH HE WOULDN'T PUT ME IN SUCH AN AWKWARD SITUATION.
IF YOU WANT PEOPLE TO FOCUS ON YOU, YOU HAVE TO WORK ON IT, SO YOU CAN SHINE
BY HAVING OTHER PEOPLE LOOK AT YOU YOU SHINE EVEN MORE
UNLOCKING THE PASSION DEEP INSIDE YOU WILL ALSO HELP YOU SHINE
IZUMI-KUN AND OTHER WOULD-BE STARS SHOULD UNDERSTAND THIS AND USE IT TO CAPTURE THE PUBLIC'S HEART
AGER
THE WAY AYASE-SENSEI STARES AT IZUMI-SAN. .
EVEN IF STARDOM ISN'T YOUR GOAL, YOU STILL NEED TO SHINE IF YOU WANT SOMEONE TO PAY ATTENTION TO YOU.
YOUR FRIEND IZUMI-KUN COULD BE A REAL STAR .
...BUT SOMETHING IS HOLDING HER BACK SHE KEEPS HER PASSION LOCKED DEEP INSIDE.

I WONDER WHY, BUT...
...IT SEEMS LIKE SHE CAN ONLY TRULY RELAX WHEN SHE'S AROUND YOU.
HE'S...
GASP!
...READING IZUMI-SAN LIKE A BOOK!
THE REASON WHY IZUMI-SAN CAN FEEL RELAXED AROUND ME...
...IS BECAUSE I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO KNOWS THAT HE'S REALLY A GUY!
EVEN THOUGH THIS MAN DOESN'T KNOW ABOUT IT...

BY THE WAY, PLEASE TELL IZUMI-KUN TO CHECK OUT THE CLIFF LOCATION FOR THE SUICIDE SCENE BEFORE THE SHOOT.
Later!
AH... UM... SURE.
I CAN SEE WHY IZUMI-SAN BELIEVES IN HIM.
THE CLIFF OF THE SUICIDE SCENE, HUH?
GOOD LUCK, IZUMI-CHAN
chatter
chatter
THANKS! I'LL DO MY BEST.
DAMMIT! NO MATTER HOW MUCH I THINK ABOUT IT, I JUST CAN'T RELATE TO REIKO'S FEELINGS
BUT I HAVE TO DO IT!

AH! YEAH. SORRY.
IZUMI-CHAN, ARE YOU LISTENING?
OKAY, AS I SAID TO YOU YESTERDAY, THIS SCENE IS...
HEY, WHERE COULD HIKARU HAVE GONE OFF TO AT A TIME LIKE THIS?
!?
DASH
IZUMI-KUN?
HM? WHAT'S THE MATTER?
IZUMI-CHAN!?

SHE WANTED TO FOLLOW HER BOYFRIEND WHO SHE THOUGHT WAS DEAD...
I CAN'T SEE THE OCEAN BELOW THESE TREES...
I WONDER WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE THAT DEEPLY IN LOVE...
TO BE SO IN LOVE WITH SOMEONE...
...THAT YOU CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT THEM.
I WISH THAT I--
SO, REIKO-SAN JUMPED FROM THIS CLIFF.

CRACK
...NGH!
!?
CRUMBLE
OH NO!!
CRUMBLE
CRUMBLE
HIKARU!?
BA-DUM
IZUMI-SAN!?

HE CAN'T! I'LL PULL US BOTH DOWN!
IZUMI-SAN, LET GO OF MY HAND.
HUH?
HUFF
SHUT THE HELL UP!
GRAB
IZUMI-SAN, I'M NOT WORTH IT!
IF YOU FALL AND DIE, YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO HELP YOUR FATHER!
TCH!
YOU'RE SUCH AN IDIOT!!

CRUMBLE
カラ
WHAM
ばん
!!
SNAG
sway
sway
A... SAFETY NET?
HA HA...

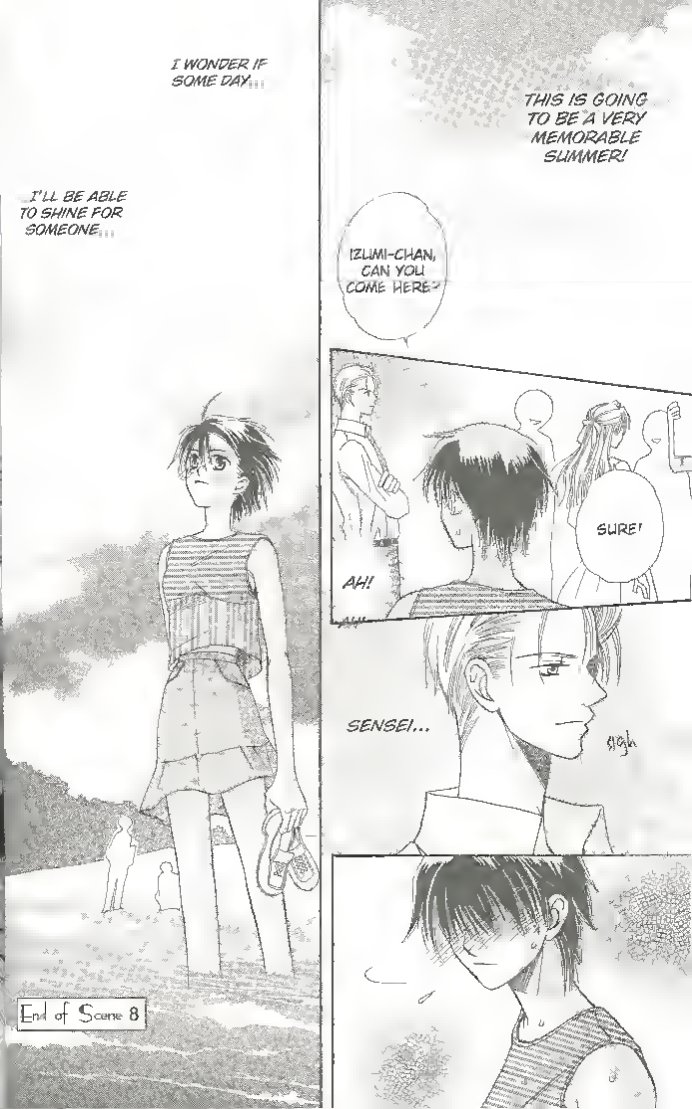
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT THERE WAS A NET SET UP
SWAY
AND TO THINK I SERIOUSLY RAN TO SAVE YOU... WHAT A WASTE
hee hee~
THIS IS NO TIME TO BE LAUGHING!
WHY DIDN'T YOU LET GO OF MY HAND!?
IF IT WEREN'T FOR THE SAFETY NET, YOU COULD'VE DIED!
WE ALMOST ENDED UP LIKE REIKO
OH MY GOD!!
BUT SERIOUSLY, IF WE WERE TO FALL FROM HERE...
SHUDDER
Uh... He's not being serious...
HMPH

REIKO-SAN MUST HAVE BEEN SERIOUSLY IN LOVE WITH HER BOYFRIEND...
WHAT?
TO JUMP FROM THIS HIGH, SHE MUST HAVE BEEN VERY BRAVE, YOU KNOW?
I'M SURE THAT THE ONLY THING SHE COULD THINK ABOUT AT THAT MOMENT WAS HER BOYFRIEND.
THAT'S DEDI-CATION
HEY, ARE YOU GUYS OKAY!?
ALL REIKO COULD THINK ABOUT...
Ah! Yea!
...WAS THE PERSON WHO MEANT THE MOST TO HER.

KLAK
Take-7
ACTION!
I STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND THE FEELINGS OF AN IDIOT...
WHO WOULD COMMIT SUICIDE...
BUT...

...I CAN UNDERSTAND WHAT IT'S LIKE TO HAVE SOMEONE VERY IMPORTANT...
...AND RUN AFTER THE PERSON...
...WITH ALL MY HEART
CUT!
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
THAT WAS GREAT, IZUMI-KUN!!
IT LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE FINALLY STARTING TO UNDERSTAND REIKO
THANK YOU!

YOU'RE AMAZING!
IZUMI-SAN!
DAN
DAN
DAN
DAN
POF
IDIOT
I'M JUST DOING IT FOR THE MONEY.
I CAN FEEL IT...
SURE.
AND WATCH ME DO MY JOB.
JUST SHUT UP...


I WONDER IF SOME DAY...
I'LL BE ABLE TO SHINE FOR SOMEONE...
End of Scene 8
THIS IS GOING TO BE A VERY MEMORABLE SUMMER!
IZUMI-CHAN, CAN YOU COME HERE?
SURE!
AH!
SENSEI...
sigh

SCENE 9

CUT!
IZUMI-CHAN, YOU REALLY NAILED IT THAT TIME.
IT'S SUMMER BREAK.
I'M STAYING AT A VACATION HOUSE BY THE BEACH WITH IZUMI-SAN AS SHE SHOOTS HER TV MOVIE
THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

Kaoru Momochi (15 years old)
Birthday: March 3rd Blood type: O
Reporter-type. She's kind of cute and perky but tends to hover around people like a hyena. Even though she belongs to the A.V. club and the school paper, because of her unusual personality, no one seems to want to work with her so she usually ends up working by herself. Even a lonely girl like her has concerns of her own. (Although the author isn't sure if she'll ever get to those concerns.)

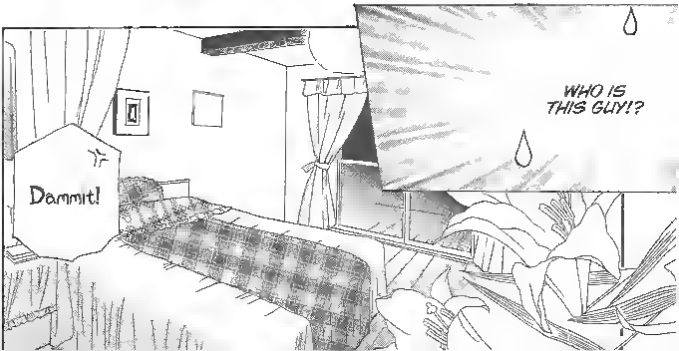
THANKS TO THAT, I GET TO SEE SENSEI EVERY DAY!
STRANGELY ENOUGH, I'M NOT THE ONLY ONE DRAGGED HERE BECAUSE OF IZUMI-SAN.
AYASE-SENSEI, WHOSE FAMILY OWNS THIS ESTATE IS STAYING HERE TO KEEP AN EYE ON IZUMI-SAN
OH, HAPPINESS ...
BLUSH

TAKABAYASHI, DON'T YOU THINK YOU'VE WATERED THAT SPOT ENOUGH?
ting zing
OUCH
whack
UGH!
What's she doing?
OH! UM... YEAH
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
OH!
LET ME SEE THAT
OH, DEAR

ba-dum
ba-dum
ba-dum
ba-dum
OH MY GOSH!
AYASE-SENSEI'S FACE...
...IS SO CLOSE TO MINE!
THERE DOESN'T APPEAR TO BE ANY BLEEDING.
I WANNA GET THAT INTIMATE WITH IZUMI-CHAN!
I'm so jealous!
Eep!
?
WHA--!?
Who the heck...!?
RUSTLE
RUSTLE

BY THE WAY, WHERE IS IZUMI-CHAN?
ANY CHANCE YOU KNOW WHICH ROOM SHE'S STAYING IN?
Help me out in kid?
WHAT...

HOWDY. SORRY TO INTERRUPT YOUR LITTLE MOMENT THERE.
MY NAME IS HAYATO KUROBE I JUST GOT HERE FOR THE SHOOT.


WHO IS THIS GUY!?
Dammit!

That Kansai guy, Kurobe, is really starting to piss me off!
GRR
HE TRIED TO PUT THE MOVES ON ME DURING THE BREAK
JUST BEING AROUND HIM WEARS ME OUT
ARE YOU OKAY ...?
WHO IS THAT GUY, ANYWAY?
HAYATO KUROBE. THE HANDSOME HALF OF A POPULAR COMEDY DUO FROM OSAKA
LAST YEAR HE WON THE GRAND PRIZE IN A COMEDY COMPETITION AND MOVED TO TOKYO.
LATELY HE'S BEEN TRYING TO BRANCH OUT INTO TV DRAMAS AND COMMERCIAL WORK.
HE'S PLAYING ONE OF THE THREE COLLEGE STUDENTS WHO ARE STAYING AT THE SUMMER HOUSE.
BECAUSE OF THE SCRIPT, HE HAS THE MOST INTERACTION WITH MY CHARACTER.
THAT'S GONNA SUCK...

I GUESS IT COULD BE HARD FOR IZUMI-SAN TO KEEP HIS SECRET WITH A TOUCHY-FEELY CO-STAR...
IS IT THAT BAD?
IF HE FINDS OUT THAT THOSE BREASTS ARE FAKE
AND THAT IZUMI-SAN HAS SOMETHING IN HIS PANTS THAT A GIRL SHOULDN'T.
...WE'LL ALL BE IN SERIOUS TROUBLE!!
Kurobe finds out that Izumi-san is really a guy.
Izumi-san looses his job
Izumi-san can no longer earn enough money to support his father in the hospital
Major scandal falls on me because I'm his roommate
MAJOR DISASTER!
CLACK
GASP!
knock knock

HELLO, IZUMI-SAMA I JUST ARRIVED
IT TOOK LONGER THAN EXPECTED TO TIE UP THE LOOSE ENDS AT SCHOOL
I'M SORRY FOR INCON-VENIENCING YOU, IZUMI-SAMA
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT HIKARU WAS HERE TO HELP
YASU-KUNI-SAN!!
YASU-KUNI!!
WHAT A RELIEF. NOW I CAN REST A LITTLE EASIER
Phew
OH, THERE YOU ARE TAKABAYASHI
EH!?
!?
GASP!

AYASE-SENSEI!!
THE DOOR WAS OPEN.
IT TOOK A WHILE, BUT I FOUND THE FIRST AID KIT. PUT THIS ON YOUR SCRATCH.
AH. THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
This is a special gift! I'm going to save it forever!
twitch
INUKAI...
ZAP

BZT
BZT
BZT
BZT
BZT
BZT
BZT
SENSEI AND YASUKUNI-SAN DON'T GET ALONG, DO THEY?
I'M NOT SURE WHY, BUT I HEAR THEY'VE BEEN RIVALS SINCE WAY BACK.
I'M IZUMI-SAMA'S MANAGER
Please get out of her room.
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING HERE!?
—CAN I FINALLY RELAX?
WITH YASUKUNI-SAN HERE...
Izumi-chaaan! ♡
This summer heat is almost as hot as you! Whaddya say we take a dip in the ocean and cool off?
I bet you look great in a bikini!
I'M SORRY, BUT IZUMI-SAMA IS EXHAUSTED

KUROBE-KUN IS QUITE A LADIES MAN, AIN'T HE?
I HEAR HE'S GOT THE HOTS FOR IZUMI-SAN
IT'S WORSE THAN I THOUGHT
HIKARU-SAN?
PLEASE KEEP GUARD AROUND IZUMI-SAMA'S ROOM.
I WANT TO MAKE SURE SHE'S LEFT ALONE THIS AFTERNOON WHILE SHE TAKES A BREAK.
Y... YES!
SU... SURE.
THAT'S RIGHT EVEN WITH YASUKUNI-SAN HERE, I STILL HAVE TO STAY ALERT
HEY, AREN'T YOU GOING TO COME IN?
DON'T YOU WANT TO BE ALONE?
I'M FINE HERE.
I'LL MAKE SURE YOUR SUITOR DOESN'T BOTHER YOU.

EVEN IZUMI-SAN NEEDS TO TAKE A BREAK SOMETIMES.
Shut
HAVE A NICE NAP.
EVER SINCE KUROBE SHOWED UP, HE'S BEEN MORE STRESSED OUT THAN USUAL.
Later.
Wait, me?
...THANK YOU.
HEY, ISN'T THAT IZUMI-CHAN'S ROOM?
OH, GREAT. LOOK WHO'S HERE...
HUH? WHAT'CHA DOIN'?
Knock Knock
I... IZUMI-SAN IS CURRENTLY RESTING, SO PLEASE ALLOW HER HER PRIVACY!
WHAT, SO YOU'RE IN CAHOOTS WITH THAT MANAGER IN BLACK?
WHAT A BUMMER...

I don't care what you say, I won't budge!
IN THAT CASE, WILL YOU WALK AROUND IN THE GARDEN WITH ME?
WELL... I GUESS I GOT NO CHOICE
HUH?
WHAT'S YER NAME?
HI... HIKARU TAKABAYASHI, BUT WHY ME...?
'CAUSE IF WE KEEP TALKIN' HERE WE'LL WAKE UP IZUMI-CHAN, YOU KNOW? ...HIKARU-CHAN
Shhh
UH...
FOR SOME REASON, I FEEL LIKE I SHOULDN'T TRUST HIM...
HEY!

A random guess.
RICE?
Or something.
WHAT'S HER FAVORITE FOOD?
DUNNO...
SO WHAT KINDA MAN IS IZUMI-CHAN'S TYPE?
Oh, no! It's not "RICE" like that!
SHAKE
SHAKE
WHAT'S THE MATTER? DON'T TRUST ME?
YOU'RE THE GIRL I BUMPED INTO LAST NIGHT, RIGHT?
GRIN
YOU LIKE HIM, DON'T YOU?
THE MAN YOU WERE WITH AT THE TIME...
YOU MEAN, AYASE-SENSEI?

page 6
WHA—!?
NOT TO BURST YOUR BUBBLE, BUT MY GUT TELLS ME...
—THAT HE'S GOT THE HOTS FOR IZUMI-CHAN.
And he's got that whole authority thing going for him...
I DON'T NEED TO BE TOLD THAT BY SOMEONE LIKE HIM!!
HEY, YA KNOW, WHY DON'T WE HELP EACH OTHER?
right?
YOU HELP HOOK ME UP WITH IZUMI-CHAN AND THEN YOU'RE CLEAR TO HOOK UP WITH YOUR TEACHER
SLAP
—AH!
FREE

I COULDN'T
IT— IT'S NOT LIKE THAT! I'M NOT TRYING TO "HOOK UP" WITH SENSE!!
Heh heh...
IF YOU DON'T ACT, YOU'LL NEVER GET WHAT YOU WANT, YA KNOW?
AND I REALLY WANT HER, IF YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN.

SLAP!
HOW COULD YOU...
WHAT ARE YOU GUYS DOING HERE?
DAMN...
SENSEI!
I WONDER IF HE SAW THAT...!?
HEY, YOU. THE DIRECTOR WAS LOOKING FOR YOU.
WAS HE? THANKS FOR LETTTING ME KNOW.

SEE YOU LATER
STING
HIKARU-CHAN
DON'T GET TOO RELAXED JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE ON SUMMER VACATION
I CAN UNDERSTAND THAT PEOPLE YOUR AGE CAN EASILY FALL FOR A CELEBRITY LIKE HIM, BUT DON'T LET YOURSELF GET TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF.
--AH!
SENSEI, PLEASE WAIT!!
SENSEI ...
GASP

I'M NOT INTERESTED IN HIM! REALLY!
PLEASE DON'T GET THE WRONG IDEA...
I... IT WAS SO DISGUSTING, SENSEI!
HIS TONGUE... HE PUT HIS TONGUE ON MY FACE...
HE LICKED MY FACE. IT WAS WET AND WARM AND...
RUB
RUB
IF YOU KEEP RUBBING YOUR CUT LIKE THAT, IT'LL ONLY GET MORE IRRITATED
I FEEL GROSS!
COME WITH ME.

I... I'M SORRY, SENSEI.
Stick
I CLEANED THE CUT SO YOU'LL BE FINE NOW
sniffle
I FEEL SO PATHETIC
BUT IT SEEMS AS IF YOUR TEARS WON'T GO AWAY SO EASILY
sigh
SMOOCH
MY GRANDMOTHER OFTEN USED TO DO THIS TO ME WHENEVER I WOULDN'T STOP CRYING.

JOLT!
UH... DON'T GET THE WRONG IDEA! KISSING ISN'T A BIG DEAL!
BLUSH
GASP!
IT'S LIKE A GREETING. YEAH...
WOW!
WOW!
FLOP
FLOP
FLOP
SWISH
SWISH
BLUSH!

I COULD DIE HAPPY RIGHT NOW...
MY GOD
KLAK
KLAK
WHAT WAS I THINKING!?
TAKABAYASHI IS ONE OF MY STUDENTS!!
KLAK
KLAK

THIS IS TERRIBLE. I'M SUPPOSED TO BE A GOOD INFLUENCE ON MY STUDENTS...
mutter
PEDOPHILE TEACHER
!!
I... INUKAI!
I SUGGEST YOU RESTR IN YOURSELF WE HAVE GUESTS THAT ARE INVOLVED WITH THE MEDIA, HERE YOU WOULDN'T WANT TO START A SCANDAL
YOU BAS-TARD!!
DON'T WORRY. NOBODY SAW IT BUT ME.
THAT'S THE PROBLEM!
YOU'VE ALWAYS PICKED ON ME, EVER SINCE WE WERE KIDS!
WELL... I WAS MUCH YOUNGER BACK THEN

AND YOU WERE TOO GOOD TO BE SEEN WITH SOMEONE LIKE ME.
YOU WERE THE POPULAR SCHOOL PRESIDENT WHO ALL THE TEACHERS AND STUDENTS LOOKED UP TO.
YOU WERE BORN INTO A PRIVILEGED AND WEALTHY FAMILY.
AND...
THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO I CARE ABOUT NOW. PEOPLE I HAVE TO PROTECT.
WHATEVER. I DON'T CARE WHAT HAPPENED IN THE PAST.
YOU WERE THE ONE WHO WOULDN'T LET ANYBODY APPROACH YOU!
DON'T BE SILLY.
INUKAI!
THAT'S ALL SHE IS TO ME! NOTHING MORE, NOTHING LESS!
TAKABAYASHI IS ONE OF MY STUDENTS.
...THE GIRL YOU JUST KISSED HIKARU-SAN, IS ONE OF THEM.
IF YOU EVER HURT HER, I WILL NOT FORGIVE YOU.

WHAT'S WRONG?
YOU'RE BLUSHING.
HIKARU?
UM... NO NOTHING'S WRONG
ARE YOU SURE?
GASP!
SENSEI.
AH..

TURN
.....
I USED TO BE SATISFIED AS LONG AS I COULD SEE HIS FACE...
KISSING ON THE FOREHEAD MUST MEAN NOTHING SPECIAL TO HIM.
THAT'S RIGHT. SENSEI IS PART RUSSIAN AND USED TO LIVE ABROAD.

HUH? THE CAMERA CREW IS BACK EARLY.
...BUT LATELY I'VE BEEN WANTING MORE.
APPARENTLY SOMEONE SLAPPED KUROBE-KUN AND WE COULDN'T SHOOT HIM
WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE? FINISHED ALREADY?
Really? Why?
GULP
OH MY GOSH! THIS IS MY FAULT! I SLAPPED KUROBE-SAN'S FACE.
REALLY?
SERIOUSLY, HIKARU-CHAN, THAT WAS PRETTY HARSH.

OH, YOU DON'T NEED TO APOLOGIZE, IZUMI-CHAN!
LISTEN, SHE'S REALLY SORRY PLEASE FORGIVE HER
Ah! my cheek still hurts.
MY DIRECTOR SCOLDED ME!
I have a bad feeling about this...
BUT SINCE YOU INSIST
GRIN!
Then please join me for Kimodameshi at the mountain behind the building after your meal. ♡
IT'S SO OBVIOUS HE'S HOPING FOR MORE THAN STUPID GAMES
KIMODA-MESHI-.?

See translator's notes for more on Kimodameshi.

I HEARD THAT THIS MOVIE WE'RE SHOOTING IS BASED ON A TRUE STORY.
OH, REALLY!? THAT'S SCARY!
He's so full of crap
heh heh...
IF SOMETHING WERE TO HAPPEN TO IZUMI-SAN . . .IT WOULD BE MY FAULT
I CAN'T LOSE THEM!
IT DOES FEEL LIKE THERE'S GHOSTS HOVERING AROUND HERE
HE'S RIGHT THOUGH
DID YOU KNOW THAT THERE ARE REALLY GHOSTS AT THIS VACATION HOME? DID'JA?

TAKABA-YASHI
BEEP!!
ひくっ
S.. SORRY DID I SCARE YOU?
WAGGZ
A-AYASE-SENSEI! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
BA-BUM
BA-BUM
I HAPPENED TO SEE YOU WALKING TO THE MOUNTAIN
SO I CAME TO MAKE SURE EVERY-THING WAS OKAY
IT MAY BE A SMALL MOUNTAIN, BUT IT'S STILL DANGER-OUS
YOU SHOULDN'T WANDER AROUND HERE AT NIGHT.
UM.. BUT IZUMI-SAN

OH, NO! THAT'S RIGHT... I'LL LOSE THEM.
TAKABA-YASHI, DON'T MOVE!
WHAT?
STAY STILL.
EH?
HE'S LEANING TOWARDS ME!
OH NO!

CLAP
CLAP
YOU HAD A SPIDER WEB ON YOUR HAIR, BUT IT'S GONE NOW.
HUH?
OKAY. ALL BETTER.
THOSE SPIDERS CAN CAUSE A SERIOUS RASH IF YOU GET BITTEN.
Hmm?
SLEEK
Sigh
Of course he wouldn't...
TH...THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
DID YOU... DID YOU HEAR SOMETHING JUST NOW?
TAKABA-YASHI?
I'M BEING TOO SELF-CONSCIOUS.
I'm so embarrassed!
.....
GASP

IF YOU RUN IN THE DARK YOU'LL—
HEY, COME BACK!
IZUMI-SAN!!
DASH
You'll fall...
SKID
SPLAT
DASH
Girth, keep going!
HEY! I TOLD YOU TO STOP!
W-WAIT, KUROBE-SAN!!
PLEASE STOP!!
IZUMI-CHAN, I REALLY LIKE YOU.
WILL YOU BE MY GIRLFRIEND?

You're so funny!
MMM... I WON'T LET YOU GO UNTIL YOU AGREE TO BECOME MY GIRL!
SQUEEZE
I'M GOING TO KILL HIM!
THIS ASSHOLE... HE THINKS HE CAN FORCE ME TO GO OUT WITH HIM!?
I'M SORRY... JUST LET ME GO...
IT'S NONE OF THEIR BUSINESS.
I'M SORRY, BUT I'M TOO BUSY WITH WORK TO BE THINKING ABOUT THINGS LIKE THAT.
AND MY AGENCY TOLD ME NOT TO.
GASP!
—WE COULD JUST DO IT RIGHT HERE?
OR MAYBE
GET IT OUT OF OUR SYSTEMS AND GO BACK TO WORK LIKE NOTHING HAPPENED, Y'KNOW?
-----!
I MEAN, IT'S CLEAR WE'RE BOTH CRAZY ABOUT EACH OTHER LET'S DO IT HERE, IN THE WOODS LIKE ANIMALS!

THWACK
UNHAND HER, YOU SON OF A BITCH!
Jump kick!
(huff)
phew
(puff)
HIKARU
You're late
IZUMI-SAN, SORRY FOR BEING LATE...
Not the face not the face!
HI—, HIKARU-CHAN?
!
you
THERE WON'T BE A NEXT TIME!
WE'LL FINISH THIS NEXT TIME, IZUMI-CHAN, Y'KNOW?
GAH!
HEY THERE, TEACH. FUNNY SEEING YOU HERE...
SHHF
TAKABAYASHI, WHAT'S GOING ON!?

LET ME SEE YOUR LEG.
HUH!?
AH!
zing zing
TAKABA-YASHI
JUST AS I THOUGHT
M-MY LEG?
HERE. RIDE ON MY BACK.
HUP
Eh?
Eh!?
THAT'S WHAT HAPPENS...
...WHEN YOU KEEP RUNNING ON A TWISTED ANKLE.
!!
UM.. LET ME--
IT'S TOO MUCH FOR A GIRL.

GRR...
O... OKAY.
HOLD ON TIGHT.
I WISH THAT...
MY HEART IS BEATING SO FAST AND LOUD...
I BET SENSEI CAN HEAR IT!
...THIS HAPPINESS COULD LAST FOREVER...
End of Scene 9

ALL I WANT IS FOR YOU TO BE FREE.
I WISH I COULD DO SOMETHING TO EASE YOUR TROUBLED HEART.
THAT'S ALL I WISH FOR.

Hayato Kurobe (20 years old)
Kansai Comedian-type

In his personal life he comes off as silly, but in his comedy duo, he's the straight man. He has a tendency to fall for many girls at once but lately he's been head-over-heels for Izumi, even though "she" doesn't return his advances. Secretly he takes pleasure in this rejection—he's a bit of a masochist.
(The author isn't sure whether or not Izumi and Hayato will ever get along.)

*More on Kansai Comedy in the Translator's Notes

I WONDER...
...WHERE WE KEEP THE WORD "LOVE" IN OUR HEART...
天使じゃない!!
SCENE 10
TENSHI JA NAI!

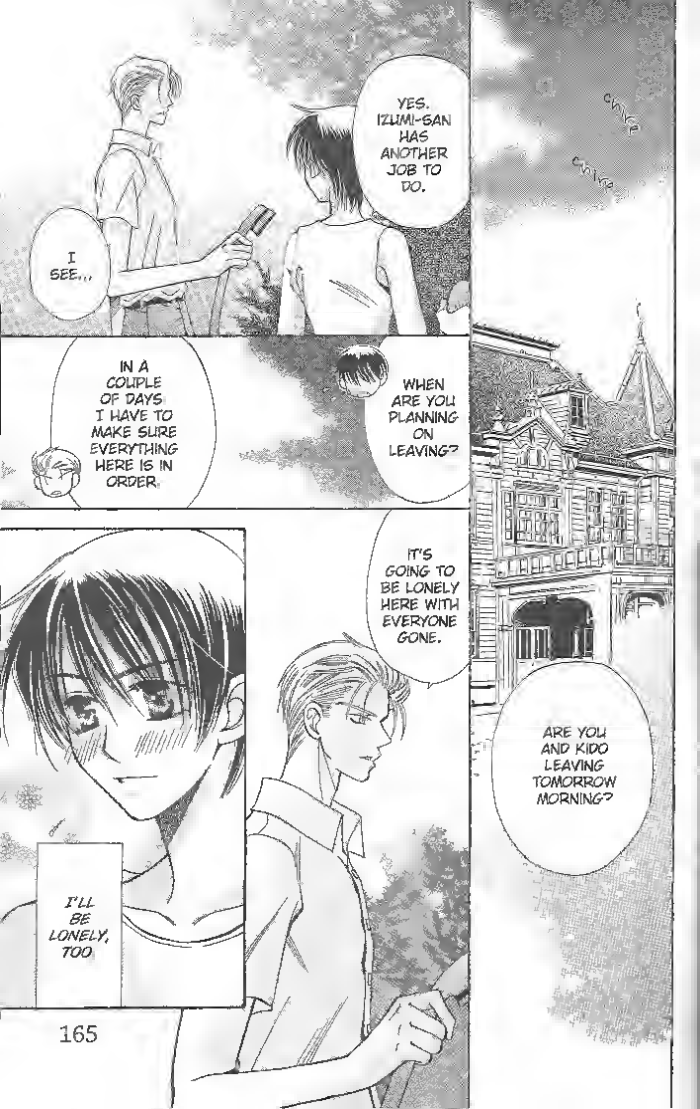
DAY 5 OF THE SHOOT IS COMING TO A CLOSE. TODAY WAS THE LAST DAY ON LOCATION, WHICH MEANS...
GOOD JOB!
NICE WORK, EVERYONE.
IZUMI-SAN, YOU DID A GREAT JOB!
I can finally go home!
THANK YOU.
IZUMI-CHAN, GOOD WORK. ♡
ALTHOUGH I GOTTA SAY I'M SAD TO SEE OUR TIME TOGETHER COMING TO AN END. IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE THAT WAY, Y'KNOW?
Yesss
IT'S FINALLY OVER!
OH NO!
HAYATO KUROBE'S STILL HITTING ON IZUMI-SAN!
OH, YOU...
Tee hee!

...IT'S LIKE THERE'S A CELEBRITY AURA AROUND THEM!!
NOW, WHEN IZUMI-SAN AND KUROBE-SAN STAND NEXT TO EACH OTHER
BUT I GUESS THEY'VE WORKED THINGS OUT
I FEEL ALL OUT OF PLACE AMONG SUCH TALENTED PEOPLE!
Ah! It's shine!
KUROBE-SAN USUALLY ACTS SILLY, AND HE CAN BE A CREEP SOMETIMES, BUT HE'S ACTUALLY A DECENT ACTOR
OH! MR. DIRECTOR.
BEING ABLE TO GET ALONG WITH SOMEONE IS A BEAUTIFUL THING... DON'T YOU THINK?
YOU DID A GOOD JOB, TOO, HIKARU-KUN.

P-PAN
DON'T FORGET, TOMORROW IS THE WRAP PARTY.
IF YOU'D LIKE, YOU CAN WEAR THESE TO THE PARTY, OKAY?
THIS IS FOR YOU AND IZUMI-KUN, A SMALL TOKEN OF MY APPRECIATION FOR ALL YOUR HARD WORK.
HERE YOU GO.
AH! I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY... THANK YOU VERY MUCH!
Smile of a Gentleman
BUT----------
These are swim-suits!
What a pervert!
I GUESS WHEN YOU'RE SUCH A TALENTED DIRECTOR, YOU CAN GET AWAY WITH THAT CRAP
GULVER
GULVER

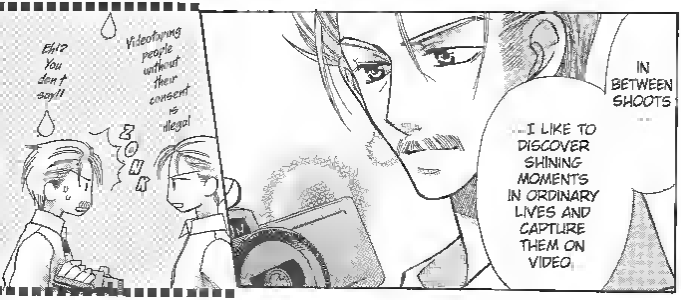
Why is it me...?
SOB SOB
BUT THEY'D LOOK BETTER ON YOU.
IT'LL BE RUDE IF NEITHER OF US WEARS THEM.
ME!?
Not to the party though.
WELL, SINCE I CAN'T RISK IT, YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO WEAR ONE TOMORROW.
SLOWLY
?
SWAP
!??
GRIN
YOU DIDN'T FORGET THAT I'M A MAN, DID YOU?
AIEEEEEE!!
Is this the black aura of Izumi-san!!?

DIDN'T YOU HEAR SOME-THING? JUST NOW...
MAYBE NOT...
HUH?
Really?
YOU'RE
C'MON
I...I CAN'T BELIEVE IT...
GOOD!
MY IZUMI-CHAN IS A--!!
NO WAY!!


YES. IZUMI-SAN HAS ANOTHER JOB TO DO.
I SEE...
ARE YOU AND KIDO LEAVING TOMORROW MORNING?
WHEN ARE YOU PLANNING ON LEAVING?
IN A COUPLE OF DAYS I HAVE TO MAKE SURE EVERYTHING HERE IS IN ORDER.
IT'S GOING TO BE LONELY HERE WITH EVERYONE GONE.
I'LL BE LONELY, TOO.

...BUT I FEEL LIKE...
...I'VE BECOME CLOSER TO SENSEI SINCE COMING HERE
MAYBE IT'S JUST MY IMAGINATION...
OH, THANKS YOU CAN GO NOW
OH, THAT'S RIGHT! I PROMISED TO MEET UP WITH IZUMI-SAN AT THE BEACH I SHOULD GET GOING!
Here to pick up Hikaru.
OH, WELL...
He thanked me!
He said "thank you"!
She's so excited that she forgot to load her feet on the ground.
S SEE YOU...
short short

PERFECT!
WHO'S THERE!?
DIRECTOR NANJO!! WHAT ARE YOU DOING THERE!?
THIS? IT'S MY HOBBY.


IN BETWEEN SHOOTS
...I LIKE TO DISCOVER SHINING MOMENTS IN ORDINARY LIVES AND CAPTURE THEM ON VIDEO.
Eh!? You don't say!!
Videotaping people without their consent is illegal
BONK

THE OCEAN IS SO BIG.
LOOK, SUMIKKO...
short short
I WORE THE STUPID BATHING SUIT, ISN'T THAT ENOUGH?
NO!
WE ALL KNOW THE OCEAN IS BIG. HURRY UP AND JUMP INTO THE WATER!

LOOK, WE CAME ALL THE WAY TO THE OCEAN. IF NOBODY IS SWIMMING IT DOESN'T FEEL LIKE SUMMER.
EVEN IF I CAN'T GO SWIMMING MYSELF, IF I WATCH YOU, MAYBE I CAN TASTE SOME OF THAT SUMMER FLAVOR.
HE'S SO SELFISH!
I should be used to it by now...
Fuu
SOS
SOS
YOUM
LI!
EEK!
HA HA HA
?
?
SUMIKKO!
splash
splash
splash
HA HA HA!
Poor Sumikko..
SOS
SOS
I CAN'T FORGIVE HIM
HOW CAN HE BE SO CRUEL?
splash
splash
splash
ALL RIGHT, HE ASKED FOR IT!
HUH?

SUMIKKO WATER SPLASH ATTACK!!
SPLASH
SPLASH
SPLASH
SPLASH
PHP
PHP
PHP
PHP
WAH!
CUT IT OUT!
I ONE-UPPED IZUMI-SAN FOR THE FIRST TIME! MOTHER WOULD BE SO PROUD!
I DID IT! I WON!
heh heh... You can't get us out here!
SLOSH
SLOSH
HIKARU! WHY YOU LITTLE--!!
HM?
----!
SPLISH
SPLISH
IZUMI-SAN!! WHAT'S WRONG!?
trmble
trmble
IZUMI-SAN...?
STAGE

GRIN
G-Grin?
When did you have the time?
WHA WHAT IS THIS!?
ZOO?
IZUMI-SA--!?
DIG DIG DIG DIG
Kyaa!
I-I'm
sniff sniff
CLMP CLMP
YOU'RE LIKE A BILLION YEARS TOO EARLY IF YOU THINK YOU CAN PULL ONE OVER ON ME!
SHUUK
IZUMI-SAN?
SHIT
MY VICTORY LASTED FOR ONLY A SECOND.
SHINE
SHINE
50%
50%
IT'S HOT.

SLURP
GAWN
!?
GLUG
WHAT CAN I SAY? HE'S SELFISH, CHILDISH AND A TOTAL JERK.
...BUT SOMETIMES... HE CAN BE REALLY KIND.
WITNESS THE SYMPATHY OF A SAMURAI.
I WOULD BE LYING IF I SAID...
...I DIDN'T ENJOY SPENDING TIME WITH IZUMI-SAN LIKE THIS
C'mon, Izumi-san! Let me out!
Nope not yet
SHF...
OH, THERE YOU GIRLS ARE!

GOT A MINUTE?
KUROBE ...SAN?
I... THINK I NOW KNOW WHY YOU'VE BEEN AVOIDING ME.
LAST NIGHT I WAS PEEKING IN... I MEAN, I WENT TO CHECK UP ON YOU, Y'KNOW?
AND I ACCIDENTLY SAW YOU GUYS THROUGH THE TERRACE WINDOW.
THROUGH THE TERRACE... HE MUST HAVE SEEN ME..
HE FOUND OUT..!?
HE KNOWS THAT IZUMI-SAN IS REALLY A MAN!?

I JUST...
BUT... I DON'T PLAN ON TELLING ANYBODY ABOUT IT
I STILL LIKE YOU!
THIS WON'T CHANGE MY FEELINGS TOWARDS YOU!
HE STILL LIKES HIM ...?
IS HE... IS HE GAY!?

"DON'T DO ANYTHING UNTIL WE FIND OUT FOR SURE WHAT KUROBE ACTUALLY SAW!"
—IS WHAT IZUMI-SAN SAID, BUT—
Kurobe-san promised not to tell anyone about it.
SIGH...
SWISH
SWISH
I SAW SOMEONE CONFESSING THEIR ROMANTIC FEELINGS FOR THE FIRST TIME
"I STILL LIKE YOU!"
I LIKE SUMIKKO
"I LIKE"
I LIKE MY MOM.
BUT THIS IS DIFFERENT FROM THAT KIND OF "LIKE."

THE SACRED WORD...
I WONDER IF IT'LL GET EASIER ONCE I SAY IT..
...THAT IS KEPT IN THE DRAWER IN MY HEART UNDER LOCK AND KEY.
I'LL OPEN UP THE DRAWER IN MY HE..RT WITH COUR..GE...
...AND TELL SENSEI
I STILL HAVEN'T USED IT, YET
WHISPER
I LIKE... YOU

I...
NO— I HAVE TO SAY IT LOUDER LIKE THIS..
I—I LIKE.
I LIKE YOU!
IZUMI ...SAN ...?

AH... UM... THIS IS...
BLUSH
HURRY UP AND GET DRESSED! WE HAVE A PARTY TO GET TO!
I KNOCKED ON THE DOOR OVER AND OVER AND YOU KEPT IGNORING ME!
THWACK
SLAM
Bop!
DAMMIT!
WHAT WAS THAT ALL ABOUT?

WALL FLOWER
EVERYONE SEEMS TO BE HAVING A GREAT TIME...
WA HA HA HA HA
chomp
chomp
KANPAI!
Those of you who are underage can only drink juice.
Cheers! Cheers!
HERE'S TO A SUCCESSFUL SHOOT!
chat
chat
IT'S LIKE...
HA HA HA HA
..EVERYONE IS ENJOYING A SHARED SENSE OF ACCOMPLISHMENT.
I COULD NEVER SEE SENSEI LIKE THAT AT SCHOOL!!
Oh, c'mon. Just tease!
No, I shouldn't...
Hey!
LET ME FILL YOU UP THERE, TEACH!
KYAA
SENSEI!?
TAP TAP TAP
I FEEL A LITTLE BLESSED, SUMIKKO
?
?
CHU

KUROBE...SAN?
I WONDER IF THIS IS ABOUT IZUMI-SAN'S SECRET...?
"COME TO THE CLIFF BEHIND THE HOUSE."
I HAVE TO GO.
PHEW...
HUH? I WONDER WHERE HIKARU WENT OFF TO...?

ARE... ARE YOU OKAY?
COUGH!
TOTTER
TOTTER
I GOT SO EXCITED, I WENT A LITTLE OVERBOARD, Y'KNOW?
IZUMI-CHAN, I BROUGHT YOU SOME FOOD.
UM. I APPRECIATE THE THOUGHT, BUT I'M NOT THAT HUNGRY.
OH, I SEE!
DON'T SWEAT IT! I'M SUPER HUNGRY.
MMM! THIS IS REALLY GOOD!
IN SOME WAYS, I KIND OF ENVY HIM.
...BEING ABLE TO EXPRESS HIS FEELINGS LIKE THAT.
SIGH
ALTHOUGH I WISH I WASN'T THE ONE HE'S ATTRACTED TO!
WHERE YA GOING, IZUMI-CHAN?
EXCUSE ME I HAVE TO GO FIND HIKARU-SAN.

HUH...?
DON'T WASTE TIME TRYING TO LOOK FOR HER.
TAKABA-YASHI?
THIS VOICE ..!
EH...?
I WONDER HOW STABLE THAT CLIFF IS. IT LOOKS PRETTY DANGEROUS.
I don't want to fall off again...
SHAAA
THE MEMO SAID TO COME TO THE CLIFF BEHIND THE HOUSE...
I don't see Kuroki-san

S-SENSEI!! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE!?
?
I THOUGHT YOU TOLD ME TO COME OUT HERE, NO?
EH!? I DID!?
NO I DIDN'T!
KUROBE-SAN MUST HAVE SET ME UP!
UM... THIS MUST BE SOMEONE'S PRANK!
I WAS ALSO TOLD TO COME HERE
OH, I SEE
KUROBE-SAN... WHAT IS HE UP TO? DID HE JUST WANT TO GET ME AWAY FROM IZUMI-SAN...?
NICE WORK OVER THE PAST WEEK.
?
YEAH! IZUMI-SAN DID A GREAT JOB, DIDN'T SHE?

NO
I WAS TALKING ABOUT YOU
YOU WORKED VERY HARD FOR KIDO.
I CAN TELL THAT YOU AND KIDO HAVE A VERY NICE RELATIONSHIP.
ME...?
SENSEI...
HE WAS WATCHING ME!!

I FOUND IT BEAUTIFUL...
...TO SEE YOU WORKING SO HARD FOR SOMEONE YOU CARE ABOUT.
THAT WAS SOMETHING I COULDN'T DO ..
SENSEI !!
GASP!
TURN
I THINK I HAD TOO MUCH TO DRINK TONIGHT.
THE STARS LOOK BEAUTIFUL, DON'T THEY?

OH, NO...
BA-DUM
BA-DUM
BA-DUM
BA-DUM
THERE ARE SO MANY THINGS I WANT TO SAY BUT I CAN'T PUT MY WORDS IN ORDER.
TAKABA-YASHI...
I HAVE TO SAY SOMETHING...
NOD
I'M SORRY, IZUMI-SAN..
IF THERE'S NOWHERE YOU NEED TO BE RIGHT NOW...
...WOULD YOU LIKE TO WATCH THE STARS WITH ME?
EH?

...I WANT TO BE WITH SENSEI.
...BUT RIGHT NOW...
...JUST FOR TONIGHT...

HIKARU-CHAN IS OFF WITH HER TEACHER RIGHT NOW.
GIVE IT UP.
NO MATTER HOW MUCH YOU LIKE HER, SHE LIKES HIM.

...YOU'RE ON AN EMOTIONAL ONE-WAY STREET!!
STING
NO MATTER HOW STRONG YOUR FEELINGS...
STING
YOU BASTARD...
WHY..?
I...I KNOW YOU LIKE GIRLS, AND THAT'S OKAY... IT KINDA TURNS ME ON BUT... IF YOU'LL LET ME...
よろっ
YOU SON OF A—!!
GLOMP!
カポッ
...I WILL SHOW YOU HOW MUCH BETTER IT CAN BE TO DO IT WITH A MAN!

Y-YEAH, I'M FINE
PLOP
ARE YOU OKAY?
Umph
WHACK
IZUMI-SAMA...?
I WAS AFRAID THAT HE FOUND OUT ABOUT MY SECRET, BUT I WAS WRONG.
SAT
...
...HE SHOWED ME SOMETHING.
EVEN THOUGH IT WAS A SILLY MISUNDER-STANDING...
TURNS OUT HE THOUGHT THAT HIKARU AND I WERE LESBIANS!

..I REALIZED MY OWN FEELINGS..
THANKS TO HIM..
EVEN THOUG I REALIZED THEM ..
...THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO ABOUT IT..
...SO I'LL HAVE TO KEEP THEM A SECRET

I'LL KEEP THOSE FEELINGS IN A DRAWER WITHIN MY HEART...
...UNDER LOCK AND KEY.
CLACK
IZUMI-SAN, ARE YOU READY TO GO?
YEAH, I'M COMING.
MY FEEL-INGS
AND MY WORDS
...SO THAT NOBODY WILL EVER FIND THEM
THANKS FOR EVERYTHING!

TAKE CARE. AND HAVE A SAFE TRIP GOING BACK TO SCHOOL.
THANKS. YOU, TOO.
THEN I'LL SEE YOU AT SCHOOL
Y, YEAH.
AND THAT IS HOW
...THE SUMMER VACATION OF MY FIRST YEAR IN HIGH SCHOOL CAME TO AN END.
End of Scene 10